

A
Concise & Easy Method
of Learning the Figuring Part
O F
COUNTRY DANCES,
by way of Characters.

To which is Prefixed
THE
FIGURE of the MINUET,
BY
Nicholas Dukes,
Dancing Master.

Price One Guinea



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By the Lords Justices
 Hardwicke C. Granville P. Grafton.
 Anson.

Whereas Nicholas Dukes, of Paternoster Row, in the City of London, Dancing Master, hath by his Petition, humbly represented to us, that he hath, with great Labour & Expence, Compiled or made a Book, entituled, A Concise and Easy Method of Learning the Figuring part of Country Dances, by way of Characters; to which is prefixed, the Figure of the Minuet. And has humbly prayed us to grant him, his Majesty's Royal Licence & Protection, for the Sole Printing, Engraving, Publishing & Vending, the abovementioned Book, for the Term of fourteen Years. We are pleased to Condescend to his Request, & do, by these presents, in his Majesty's Name, as far as may be agreeable to the Statute, in that Case, made & provided, Grant unto the said Nicholas Dukes, his Heirs, Executors, Admini-

strators, & Assigns, his Majesty's Royal Priviledge, & Licence, for the sole Printing, Engraving, Publishing, & Vending, the said Book during the Term of fourteen Years, to be Computed from the day of the Date hereof; Strictly forbidding, & Prohibiting, all his Majesty's Subjects, within his Kingdoms, & Dominions, to Reprint or Abridge the same, either in the like, or any other Size or Manner whatsoever, or to Import, Buy, Vend, Utter, or Distribute any Copies thereof, Reprinted beyond the Seas, during the said Term of fourteen Years, without the Consent & Approbation, of the said Nicholas Dukes, his Heirs, Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, by Writing, under his or their Hands, & Seals, first had & Obtain'd, as they will answer the Contrary at their Peril. Whereof the Commissioners, & other Officers of his Majesty's Customs, the Master, Wardens, & Company of Stationers, are to take Notice, that due Obedience may be render'd to his Majesty's Pleasure herein declared. Given at Whitehall the Twentry third day of April, 1752. in the Twentry fifth Year of his Majesty's Reign. -

By their Excellencies Command
Claudius Amyand.

THE PREFACE

Dancing being an Art very conducive to the forming, in either Sex, a Genteel, free, and easy Carriage & Deportment; and not only so, but an Exercise delightfully pleasing & becoming both to Gentlemen as well as Ladies. It is now a diversion highly esteem'd & valued in all y^e Courts of Europe, and become so Universal, that, in many Foreign Countries, it's their Chief Amusement; and so much approved of, at this time, in England, that in many of our greatest Citys & Towns, it's their Chief diversion. Though I propose Chiefly to Treat on the different parts of the figuring of Country dances, yet first of all I will take the Liberty to acquaint every Gentleman or Lady, who is desirous of performing Country dances, in a Genteel, free, & easy manner, the necessity they are under of being first duly Qualified in a Minuet; that beautifull dance, being so well calculated and adapted, as to give room for every person to display all the beauties & Graces of the body, which becomes a genteel Carriage? As the dance is the Ground work of all other dancing, I thought it my duty to recommend y^e knowledge of it to all Gentlemen & Ladies, that, by acquiring y^e Beauties & Graces of that dance, they may be Enabled

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to perform the other part of dancing with y^e greater neatness & delicacy. As I have intimated what I think is necessary to set forth the Advantages of knowing a Minuet, I shall now beg leave to advance a little on the Subject of Country dancing. As numbers of Gentlemen & Ladies are very desirous of Acquiring the Art & knowledge of this branch of dancing, I have, for this purpose, endeavour^d to explain to them, in y^e most easy manner possible a certain number of the most principal turns, & different parts of figuring, wh^{ch} are made use of in this manner of dancing. As the Composition of Country dances, as well as all other dancing, depends on y^e fancy of y^e Composer; for w^{ch} reason it's impossible to describe every figure that may be thought of; therefore I have confin'd myself to such general figures only, as always were, & always will be, in all probability, made use of, & cannot be left out: So that not to swell this little book with more figures than are necessary, or to perplex the Learner with more than what is absolutely useful, I have Compiled only — such a number of the most principal figures, as will be necessary to compleat any Gentleman or Lady; & by observing of which rules, any person, who has the least knowledge that may be of Country dancing, may be cap-

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able of picking out & performing almost any dance that is made or publish'd. Even a person who never has Learn'd, cannot fail of improving themselves, by this method; every figure being so plainly Traced out, that, by following the lines, they cannot fail of performing the figure; Gentlemen and Ladies will find, that by being taught by this method, they will acquire the knowledge of the figuring part much sooner, and much easier, than they can by any other way of teaching; since, by the help of this Book, they may always be improving themselves, and that without the help of a Master; & by y^e help of this Book also, if they were not to dance for a considerable time, & was, in part, to forget what they had acquired, by turning to those figures they might immediately set themselves to rights. Such Gentlemen that Travel, or are so situated, that they can't so conveniently have y^e Instructions of a Master, will find this of peculiar service to them; since they may have recourse to this at all times, and improve themselves by so doing.

Those persons who are what may be called profess'd dancers, will find this Book of service to them; for, altho' they may be capable of going down any dance, after they have seen a Couple or two go it down; if they are not acquainted with y^e proper names of every turn.

P R E F A C E

and every figure they may be frustrated in their performance; since they will find more difficulty of retaining y^e figure by the observation of y^e Eye, than they would by being acquainted with all y^e proper names of every turn, &c., for then they will have nothing to do, when a dance is call'd but to keep in memory y^e names of the figures the one after the other; which when you know how those figures are to be done, & putting them together properly, one after the other, in their due Course; You'll find it an easy matter to go down with any dance whatever; w^{ch}. for y^e want of knowing y^e proper names, as before mention'd, y^e best of dancers may be confus'd.

As I propos'd to give Instructions only for y^e figuring part; so for that reason, I have took no notice of several Whims and Humours which are often times introduced, according to the Caprice of the Composer; such as Clapping hands. peeping over the shoulders, or many other Oddities; which I shall leave to the Observation of the Performer. Now for the greater ease of such Gentlemen or Ladies who are desirous of improving themselves in a Minuet, I have traced the figure of it; by which means any person may, in a few minutes make themselves Masters of y^e figure

P R E F A C E

As I have hinted, in the latter part of the Book, that a long Minuet is look'd upon Ungenteel, I have, for that reason, Traced as many figures as will be necessary for the performing of it of a proper Length; but if the performers are disposed to make it longer I shall leave that to their discretion. —

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The Contents

I

Back to back w th your partner .	35	Cast up & half figure .	73
Cast of & up again .	1 & 2	Foot it sideways & turn .	27
Cast of two Co. & up again .	3		
Cross over & half figure .	4 & 35	Hands all 4 round at bottom	12
Cast of two Co. lead up two Co. } and Cast of one Co. }	7	Half figure up Contrary sides } & down again of your own . }	18
Cross over two Co. lead up } two Co. & Cast of one Co. }	8	Lead up two Co. & Cast of .	19
Cross over two Co. .	9	Stay of your own sides .	20
Cross over one Co. & turn your partn ^r .	11	Stay Contrary sides .	21
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Cast of one Co. & turn y ^e 3 ^d wo. } & finish in y ^e 2 ^d mans place. }	28	turn at y ^e top . }	
The 1 st wo. Casts of one Co. and } turns y ^e 3 ^d man & finishes in } the 2 ^d wo. place . }	29	Hands all Six round .	55
Cast of one Co. & lead thro' y ^e } bottom Cast up one Co. & lead } thro' y ^e top & Cast of . }	30	Half figure Contrary sides } & up again of your own . }	70
Cast of one Co. & Cross over y ^e 3 ^d } Co. Cast up again & Cross over } to your own places . }	33	Half figure at top & turn hands .	71
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		Lead your partn ^r round y ^e 2 ^d man } & round y ^e 2 ^d wo. into y ^e 2 ^d Co. place. }	17
		Lead your partn ^r down to y ^e 3 ^d wo. } place & bring up y ^e 3 ^d wo. }	31
		Lead thro' y ^e 2 ^d Co. & Cast up & Cast of } lead thro' y ^e 3 ^d Co. & Cast up & Cast of . }	34


The Contents


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

Lead out side and turn in the Middle	44	The 2 ^d man casts below y ^e 3 ^d man & the wo. casts up & meets in y ^e	40
Lead out sides & in again y ^e	46	Middle & turn partners	
2 first men & two first wo.		The 1 st man & 2 ^d wo. leads out sides & inwards again y ^e 1 st wo.	45
Lead thro' y ^e bottom & Cast up & thro' y ^e top & Cast of	52	& 2 ^d man y ^e same & turn at top	
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of y ^e wo. sides & y ^e wo. of y ^e mans side		Whole figure of your own sides	47
Set Corners baulk them & turn your partner	50 51		
Set to y ^e 2 ^d wo. & turn her	56 & 57		
Set Single y ^e man Cast of & the wo. Cast up	60 61		
The 3 ^d man leads up y ^e 3 ^d wo. & takes his partn ^r back again	32		
Turn y ^e partn ^r right hands & Cast of	36		
Turn y ^e partn ^r left hand & Cast up	37		
The 1 st man & 1 st wo. sets to y ^e 2 ^d	38		
wo. & hands all three round	39		


Rules to be Observed


You are to Observe that the top of the Book is always to be kept toward the upper end of the Room, so that as you Trace any Figure you must turn your hands in such a manner, as not to turn the Book as the Figure waves, but always keep y^e Book in the same position


This mark Signifies for the Man 

This for the Woman 

This Signifies for the giving the hand or hands for one  for both 

Where this mark \times is, is to let go y^e hand or hands According as the upper part of this mark is directed the face is to be Carried 


This mark  Signifies a quarter turn of y^e body to the right or left according to which side of the line it is set, the mark's above, shews, one is a quarter turn to the left hand, and the other a quarter turn to right

Where those dots are in this manner it's to shew where the Person is to finish 

When you Cast of below a Couple they are to move up to your place, Likewise the same if you Cast up above a Couple they are to move down to your place and so the same in Crossing over or figuring in or

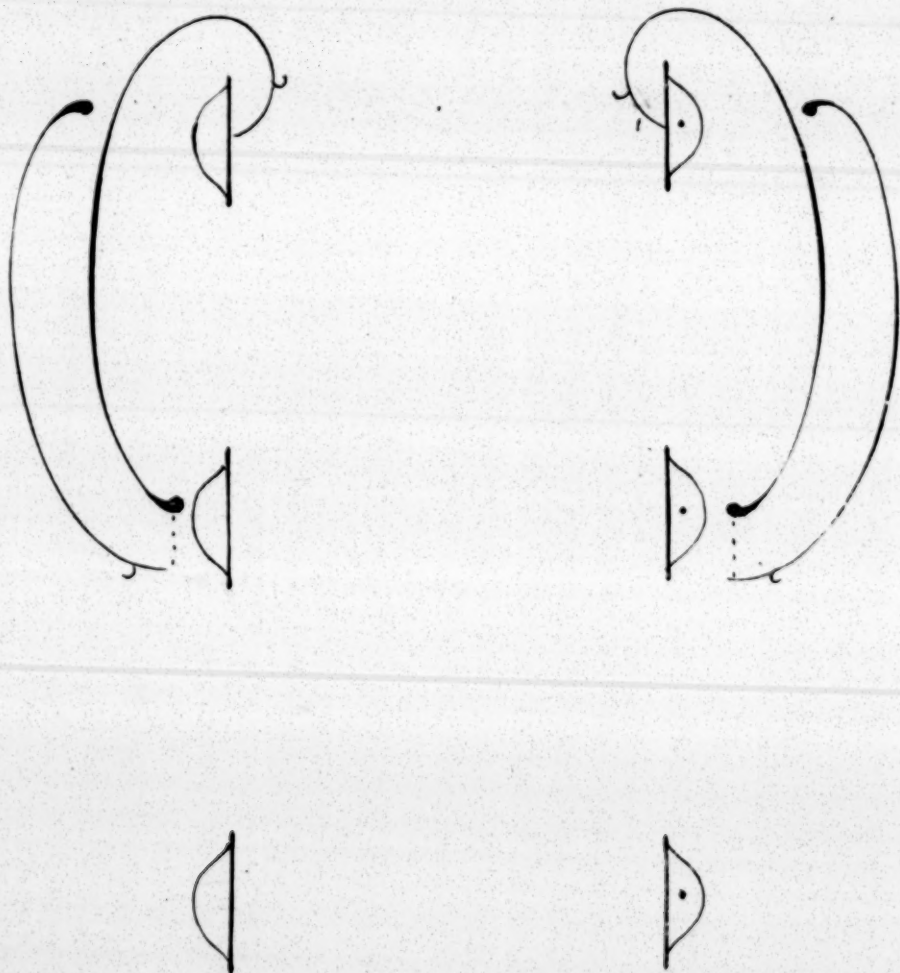
Rules to be Observed

in any other part where you move down or up, the other Couple is to shift as the Case requires.

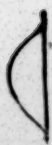
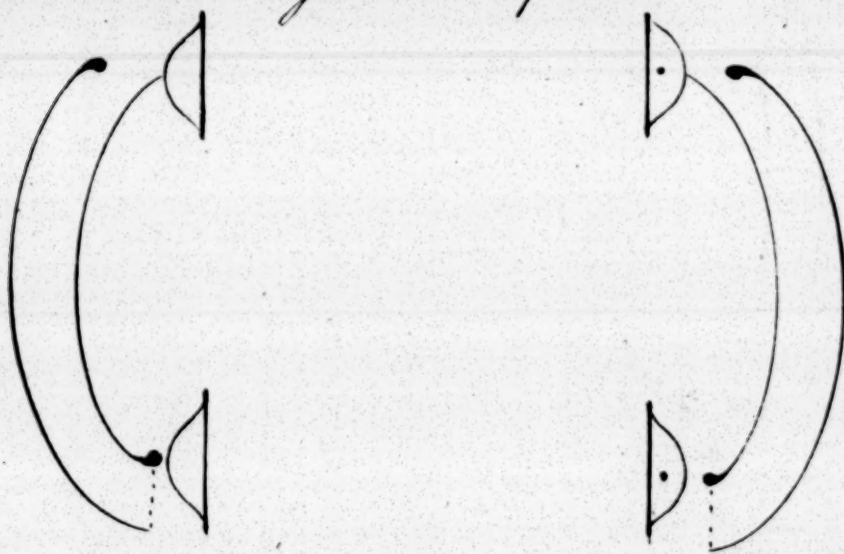
I have set no perticuler mark for your seting or footing no otherways then by Just drawing of a little line at this  pointing to the person you are to set to as the directions over y^e figure informs you; according to the present method of dancing they keep continually footing, as in Casting of, Crossing over, or any other part of Figuring, you may foot it forwards or backwards or sideways as the Case requires.

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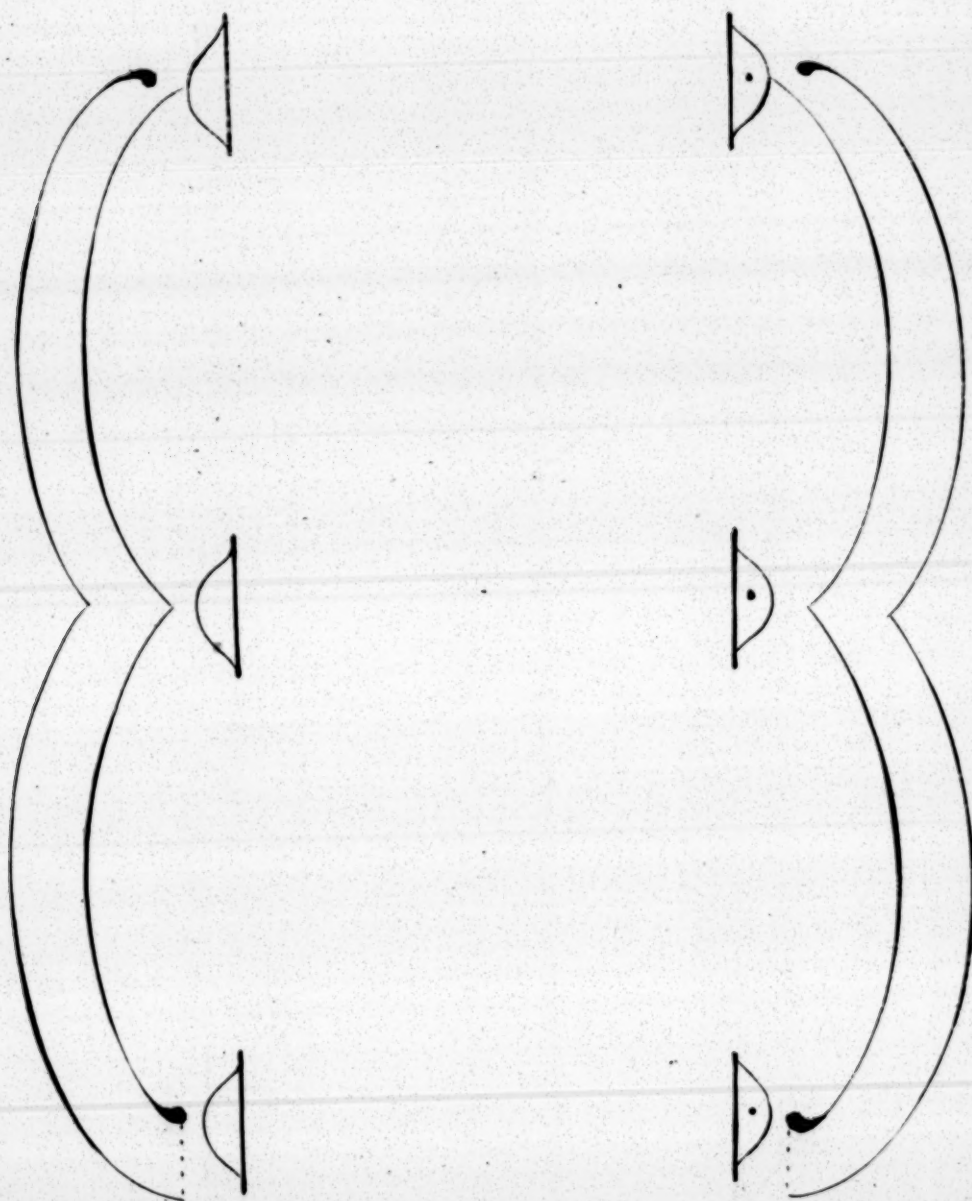
To Cast off & up again in the manner
it used to be done formerly, which is here
under described; that is, by turning round
to your left hand, & going below y^e 2^d Co.
into their place, & then turning round to y^r
right hand, & coming up to your own place;
the Wo. turn off first to her right hand, &
then up again to the left



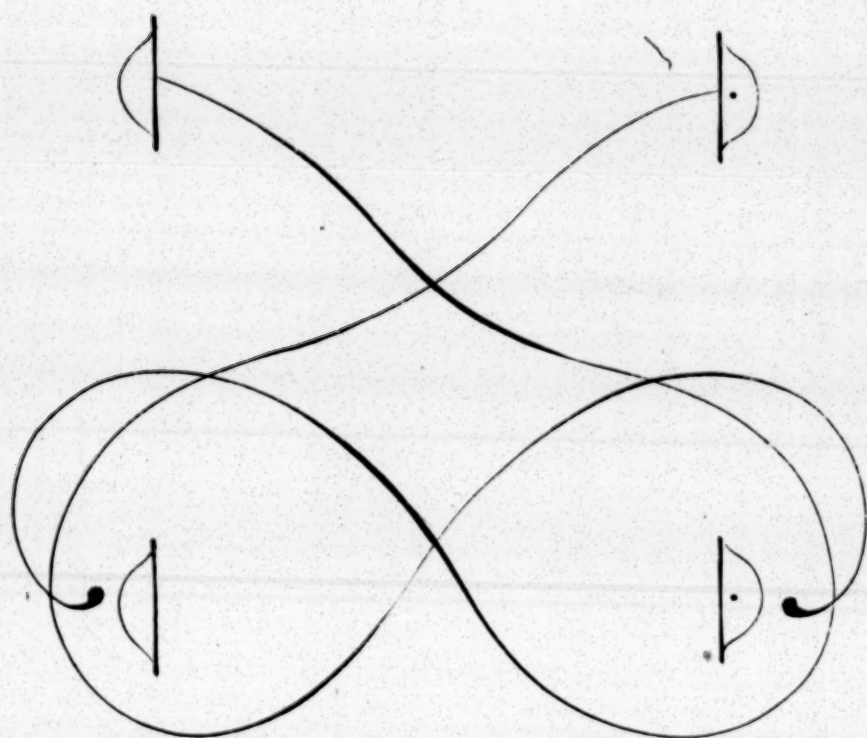
As I have shew'd on the other side the manner of Casting of & up again, as used formerly, I shall now shew the manner of doing it according to the Modern method, & shall hereafter keep to this last mann^r of doing it; to Cast off & up again, according to this last method propos'd, is to slip or footing it down behind the 2^d Co. to the 2^d Co. place, without turning round, & slip up again in the same manner to your own place.



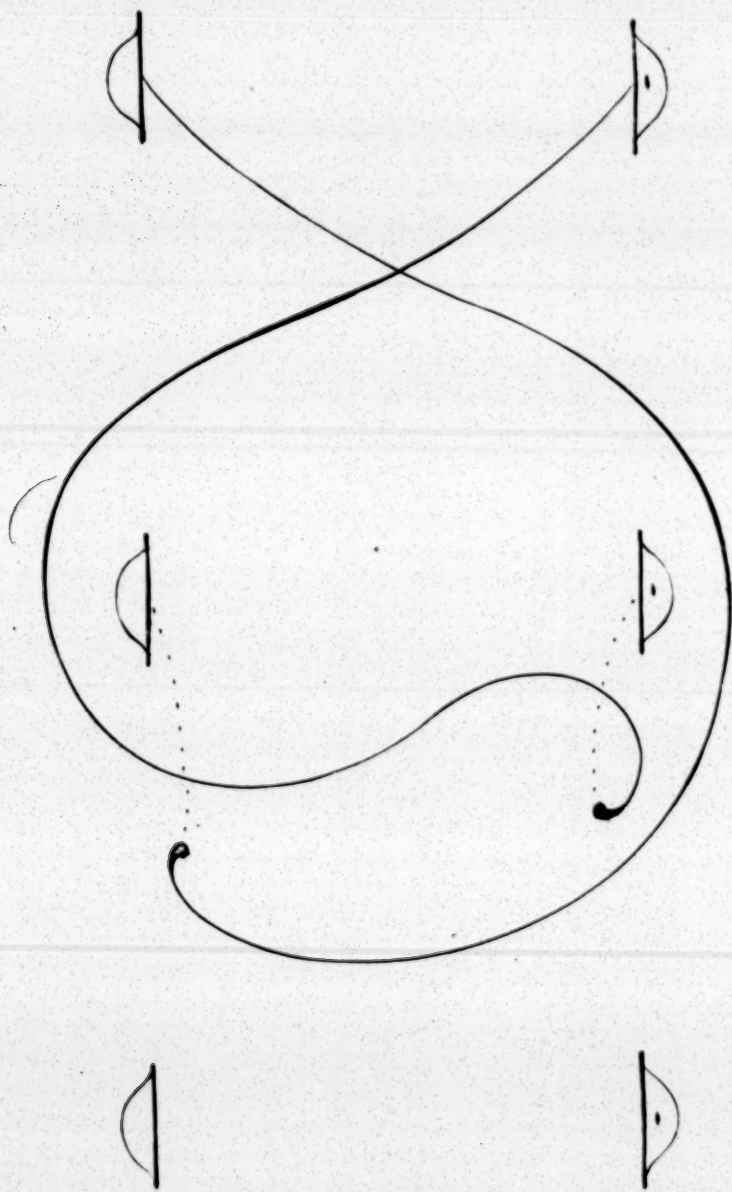
To Cast of two Co. and up again



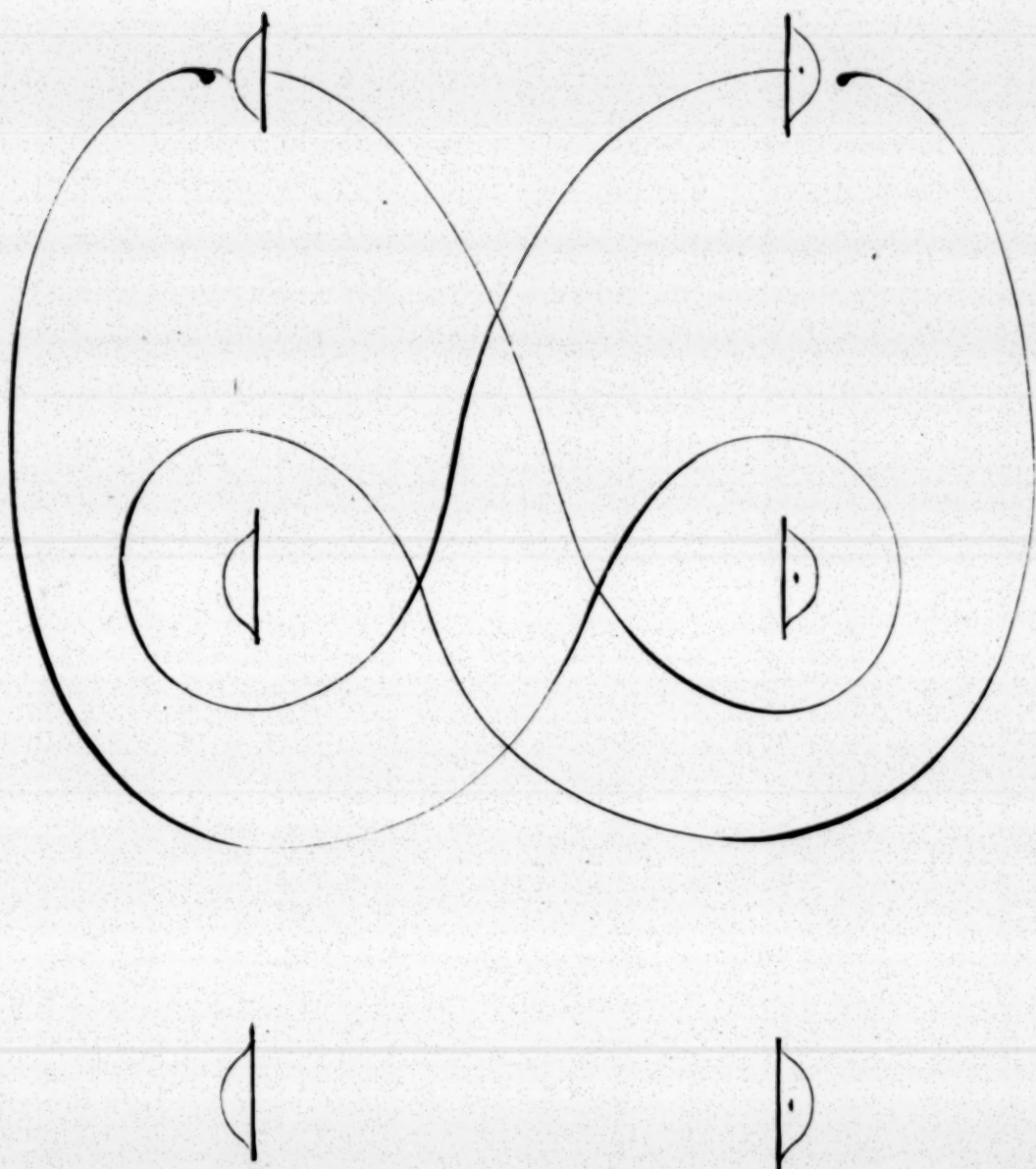
To Cross over, and half figure



*To Cross over & half figure Cutting of it
short as frequently done that is without going
between & round the 2^d Co: but Crossing over &
turning short to your own side*

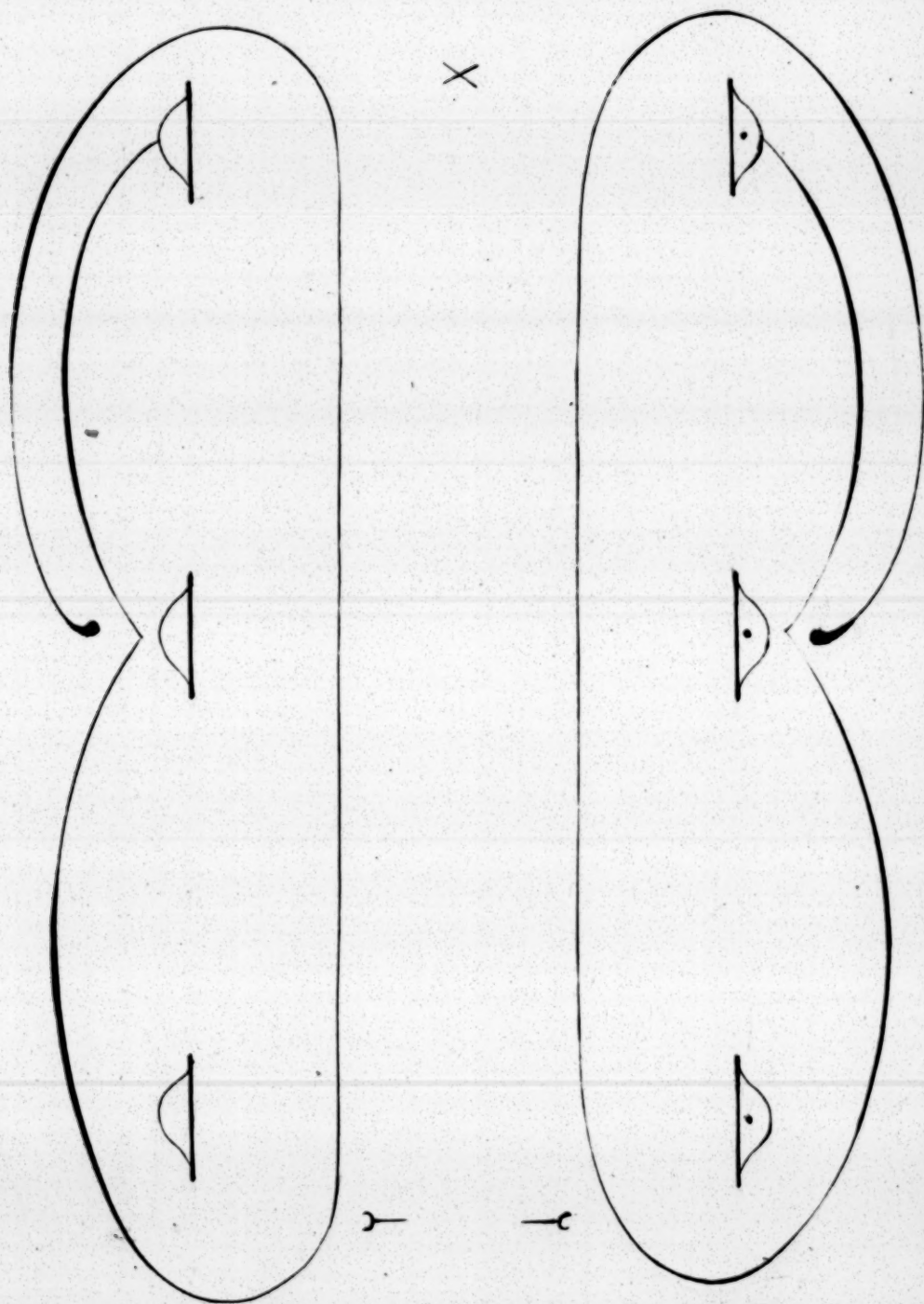


To Whole figure

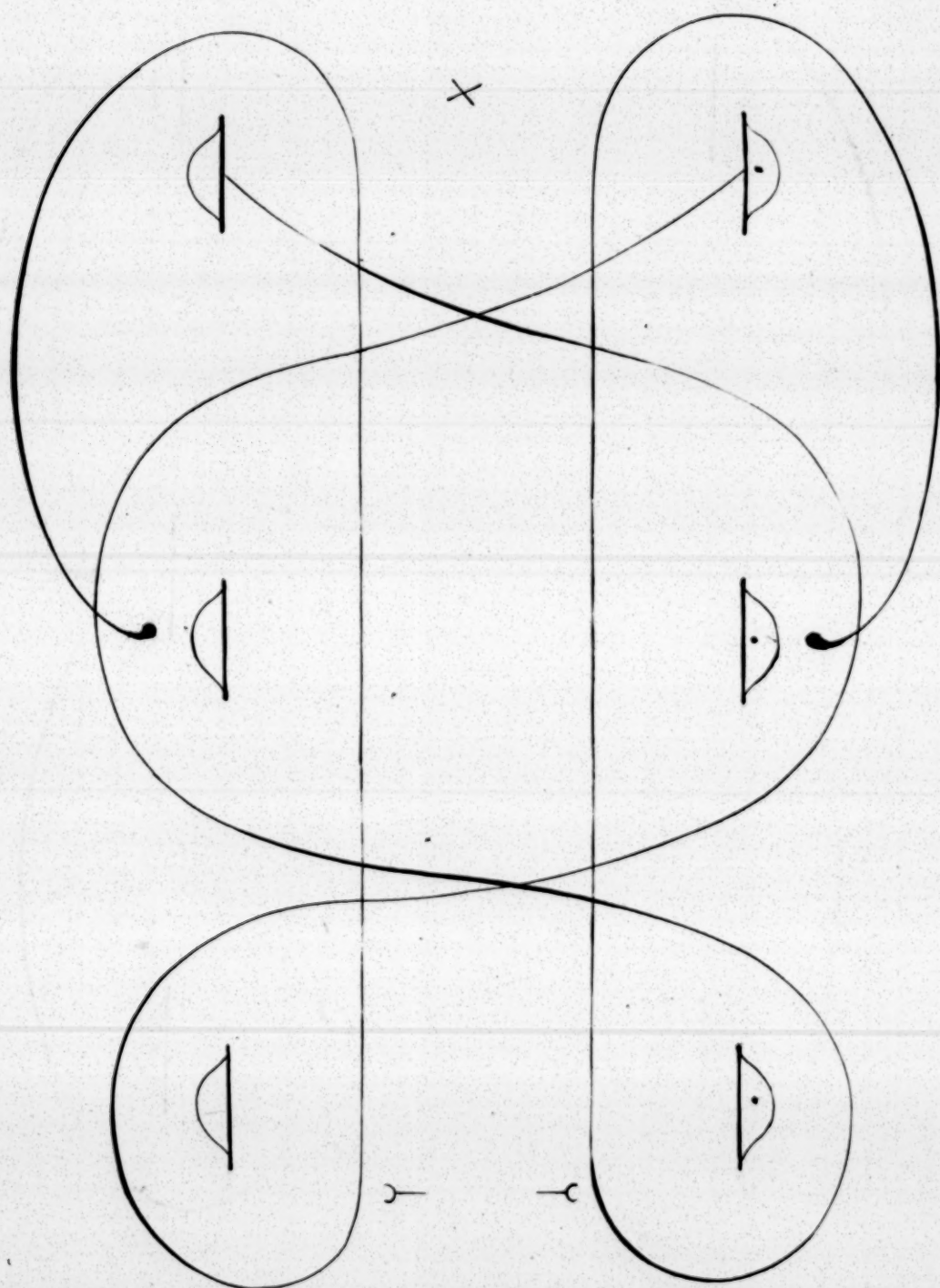


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To Cast of two Co. lead up to the top & Cast of

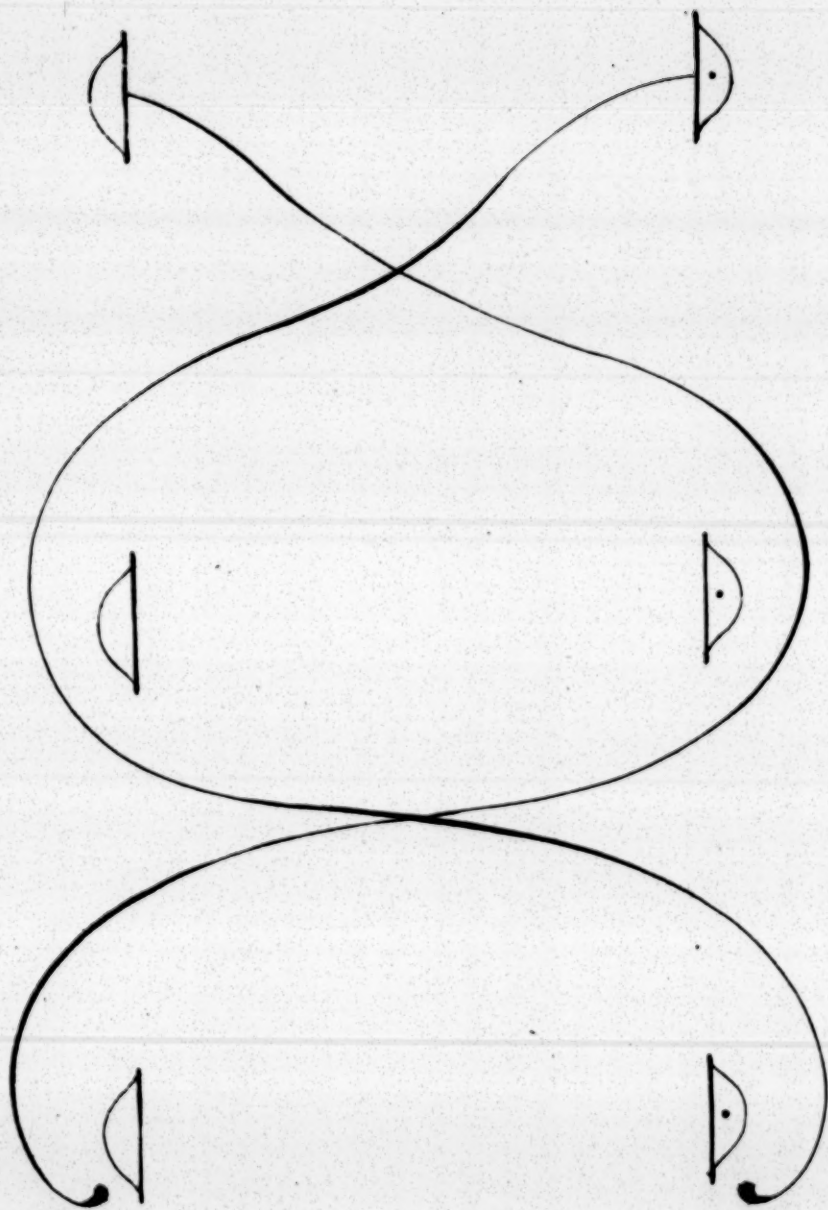


*To Cross over two Co. & lead up to the top and
Cast of*

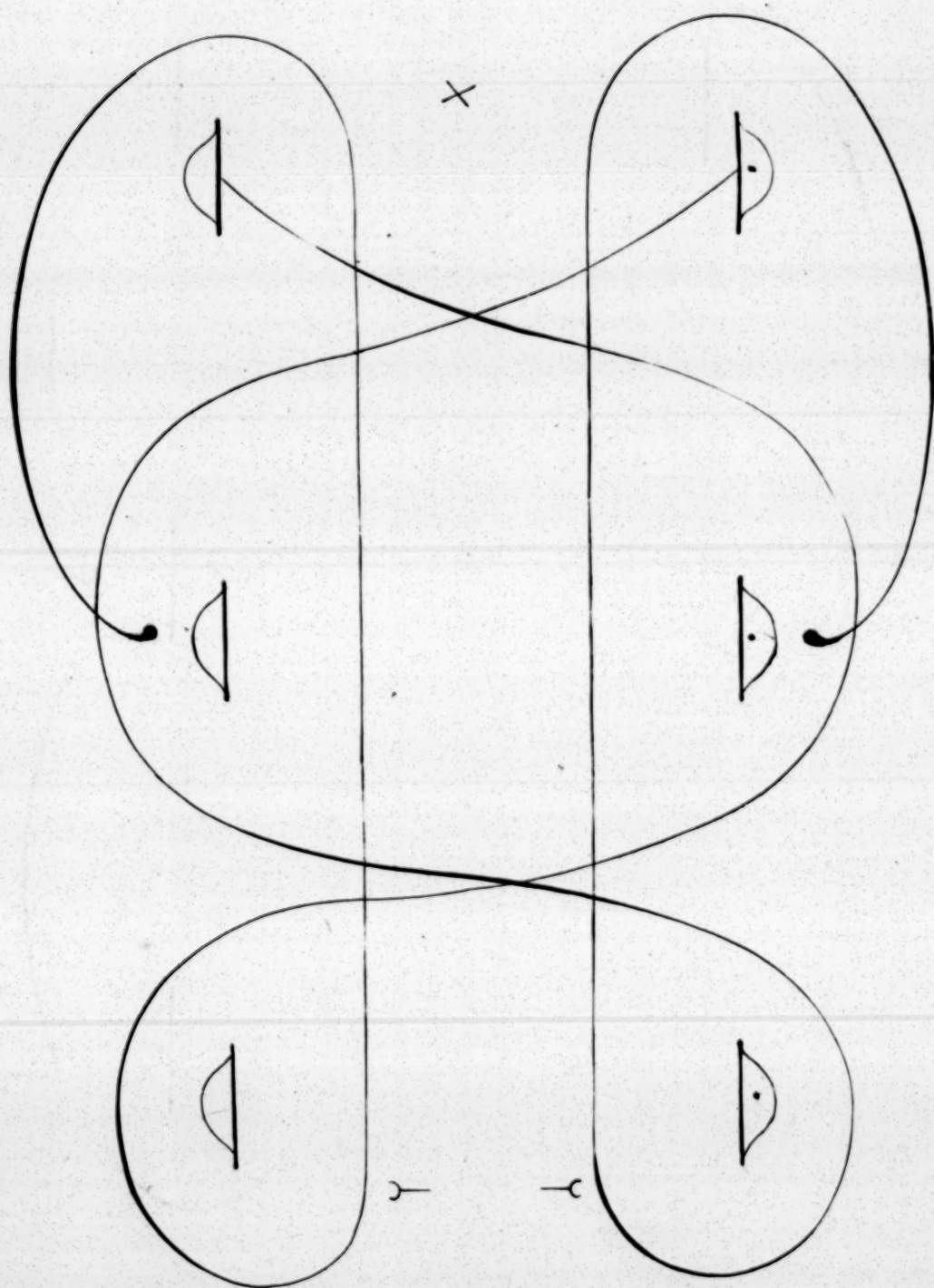


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To Cross over two Co:

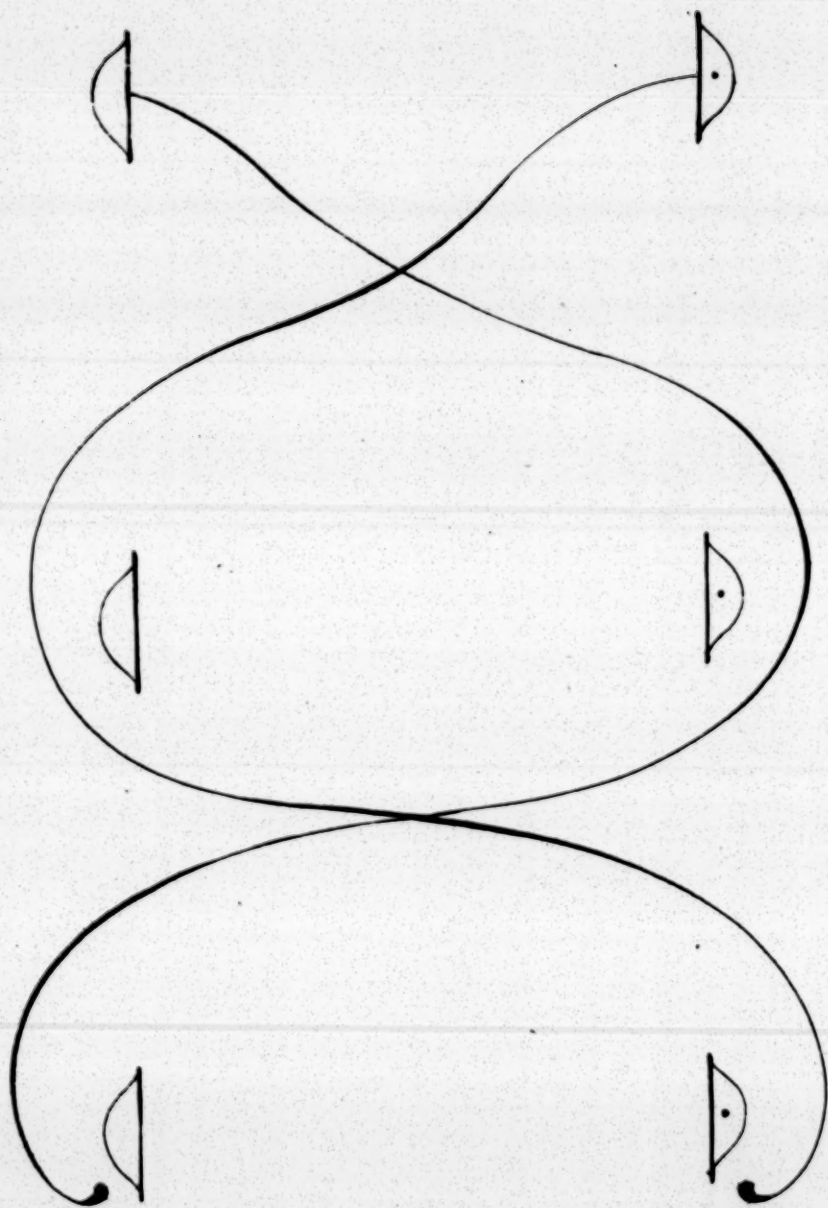


*To Cross over two Co. & lead up to the top and
Cast of*

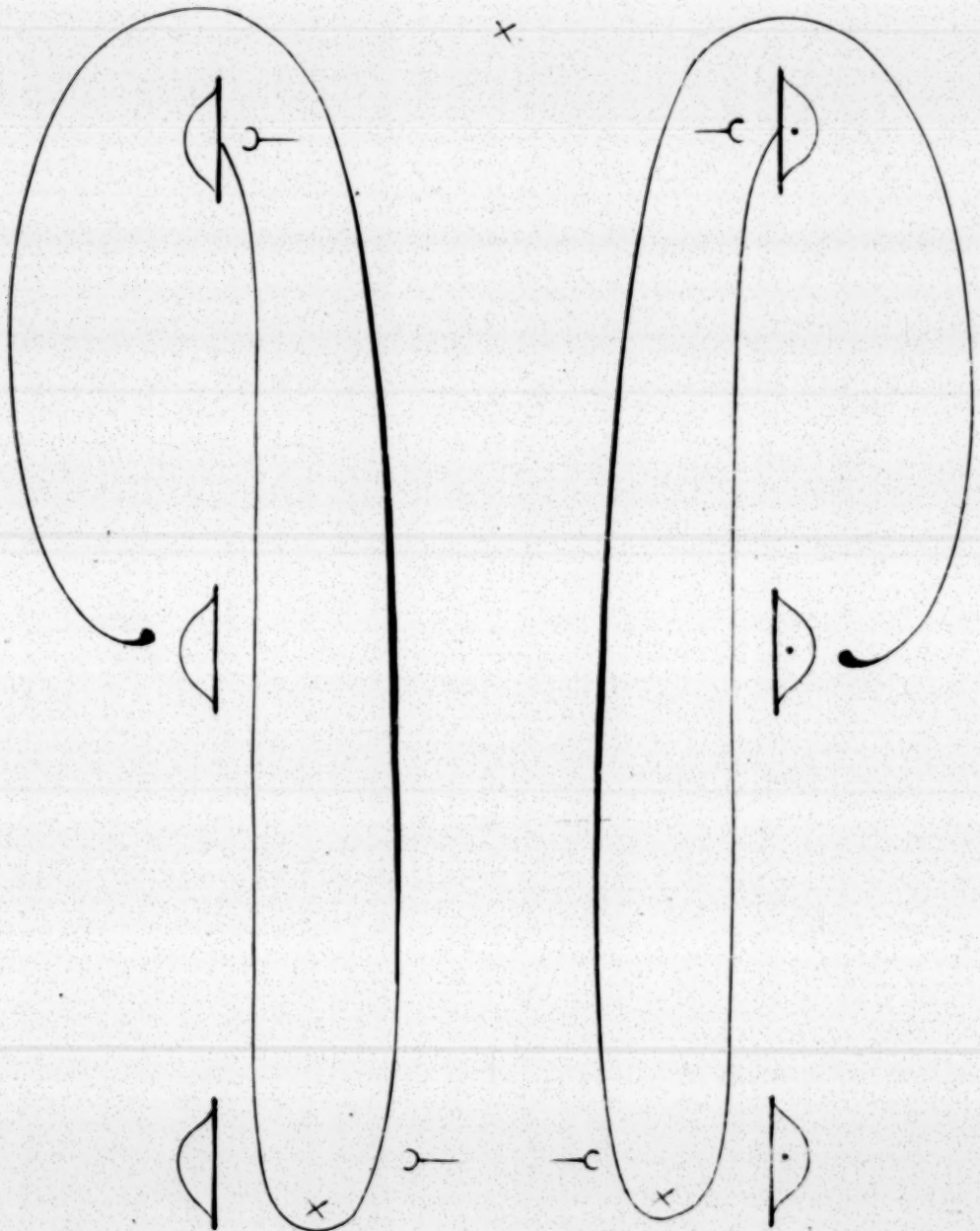


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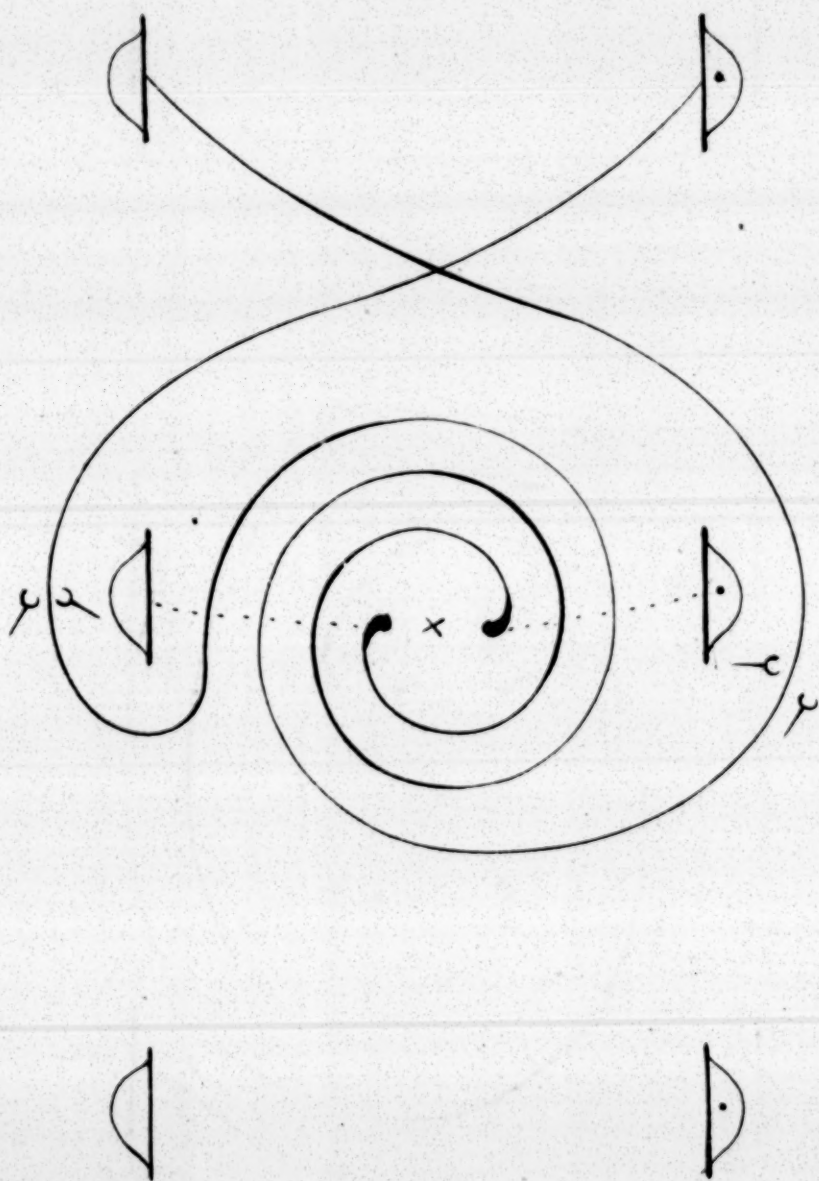
To Cross over two Co:



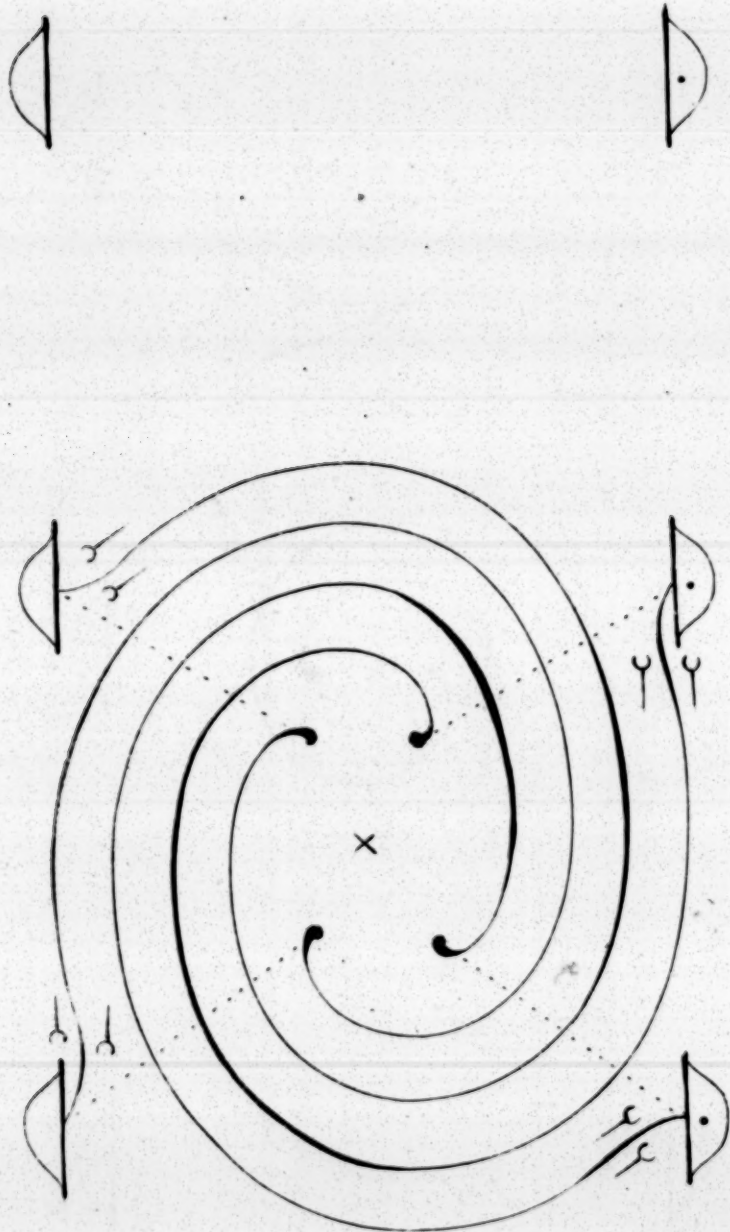
*To lead down, or often times call'd Gallop
down & up again, & Cast of—*



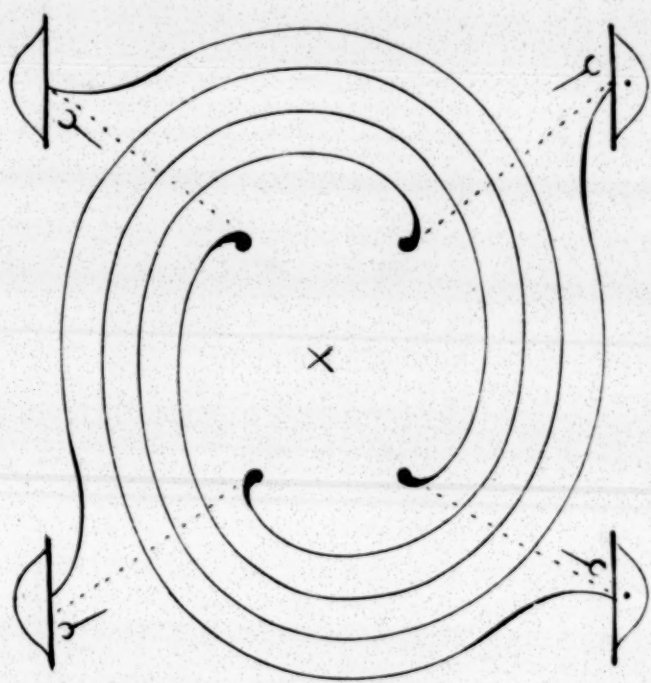
Cross over one Co: & turn y^e Partner



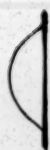
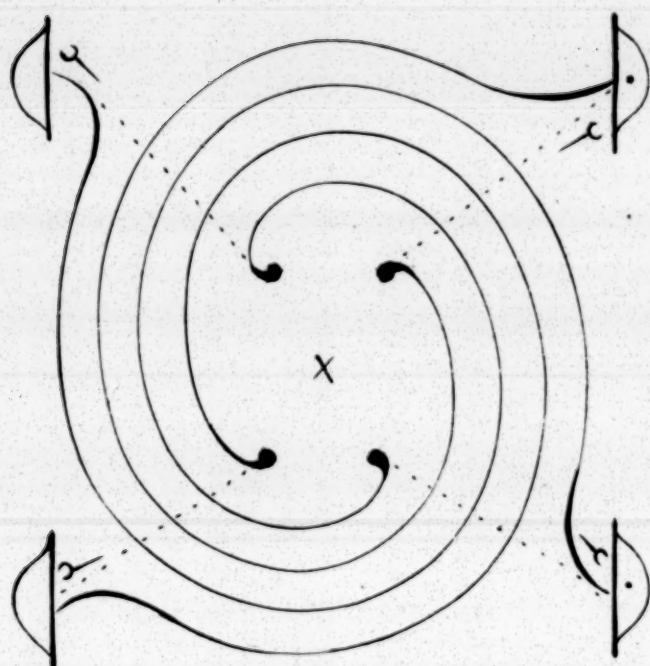
Hands all four round at bottom



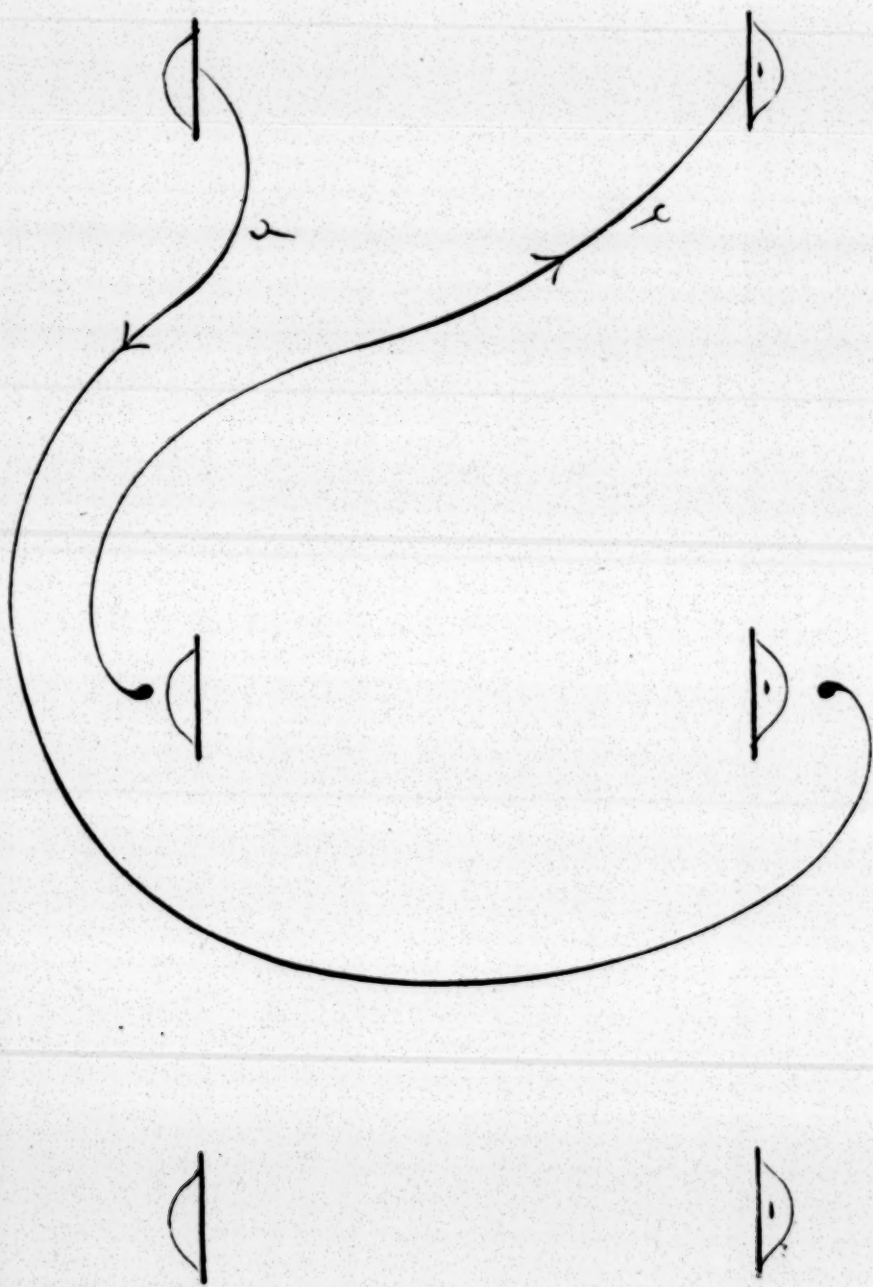
Right hands across round



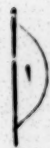
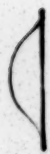
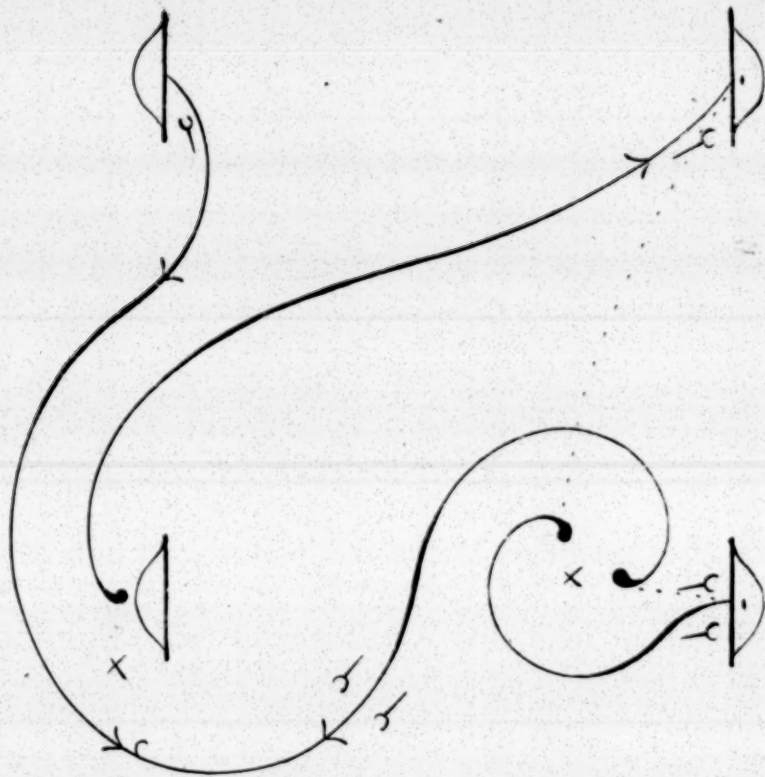
Left hands a cross round



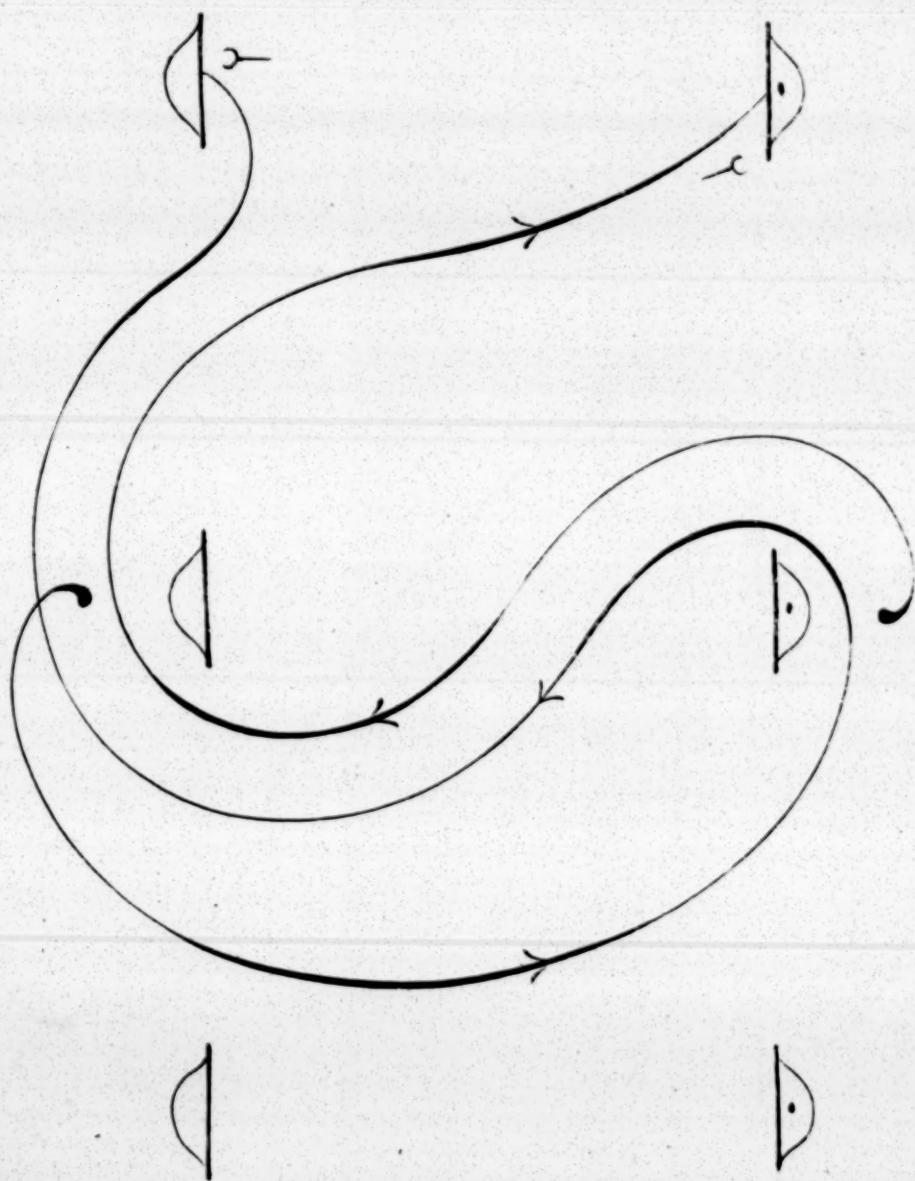
Lead your Partner of into the 2^d Co: place
improper, the. Man with his right hand the
Wo. with her left hand



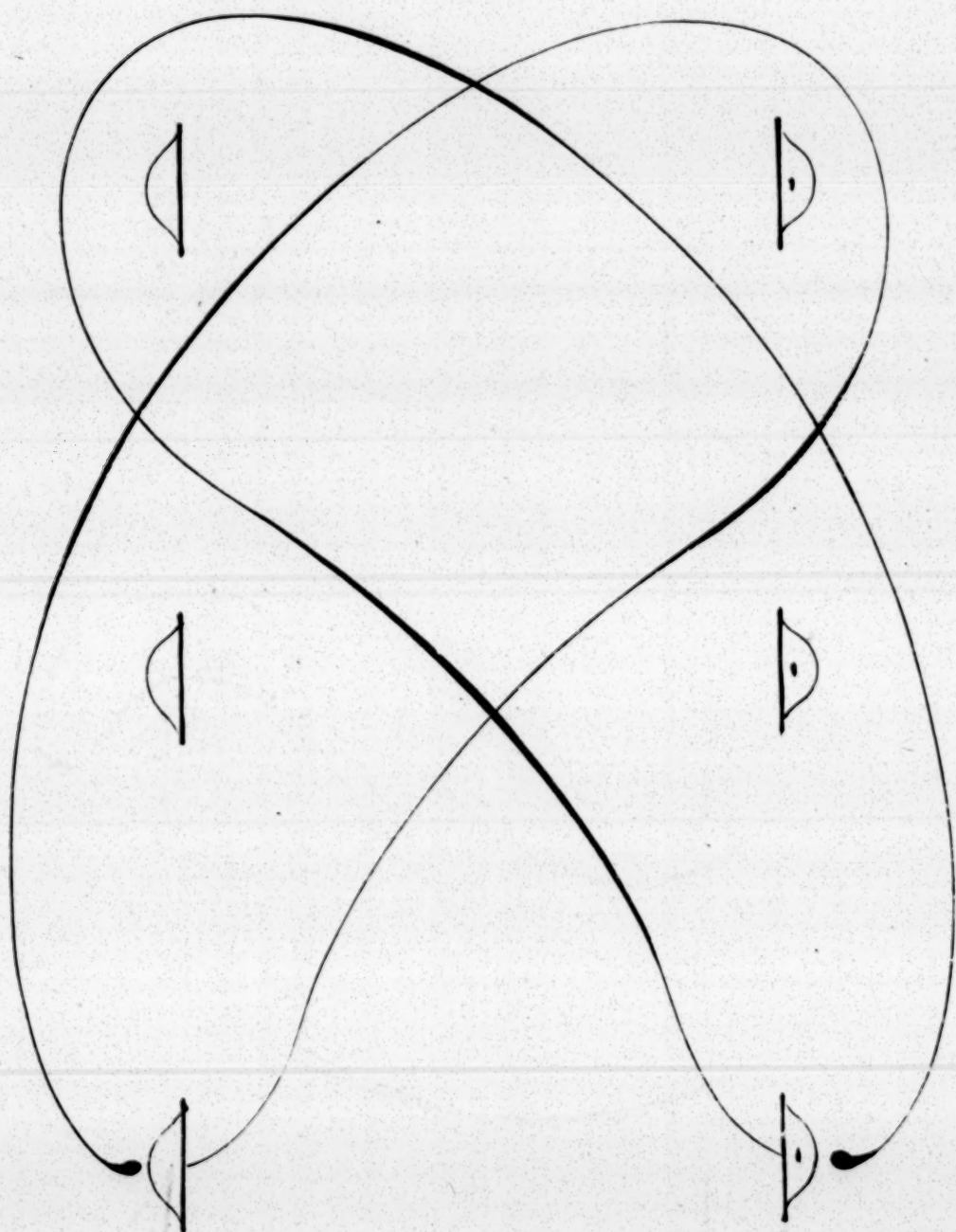
Lead your Partner of below the 2^d Co: and
 leave your Partner improper or of y^e Mans
 Side & turn y^e 2^d Wo: & finish in y^e 2^d Wo: place



Lead your Partner round the 2^d Man, & round
the 2^d Wo, into the 2^d Co: place
the Man with his right hand, and the Wo.
with her left

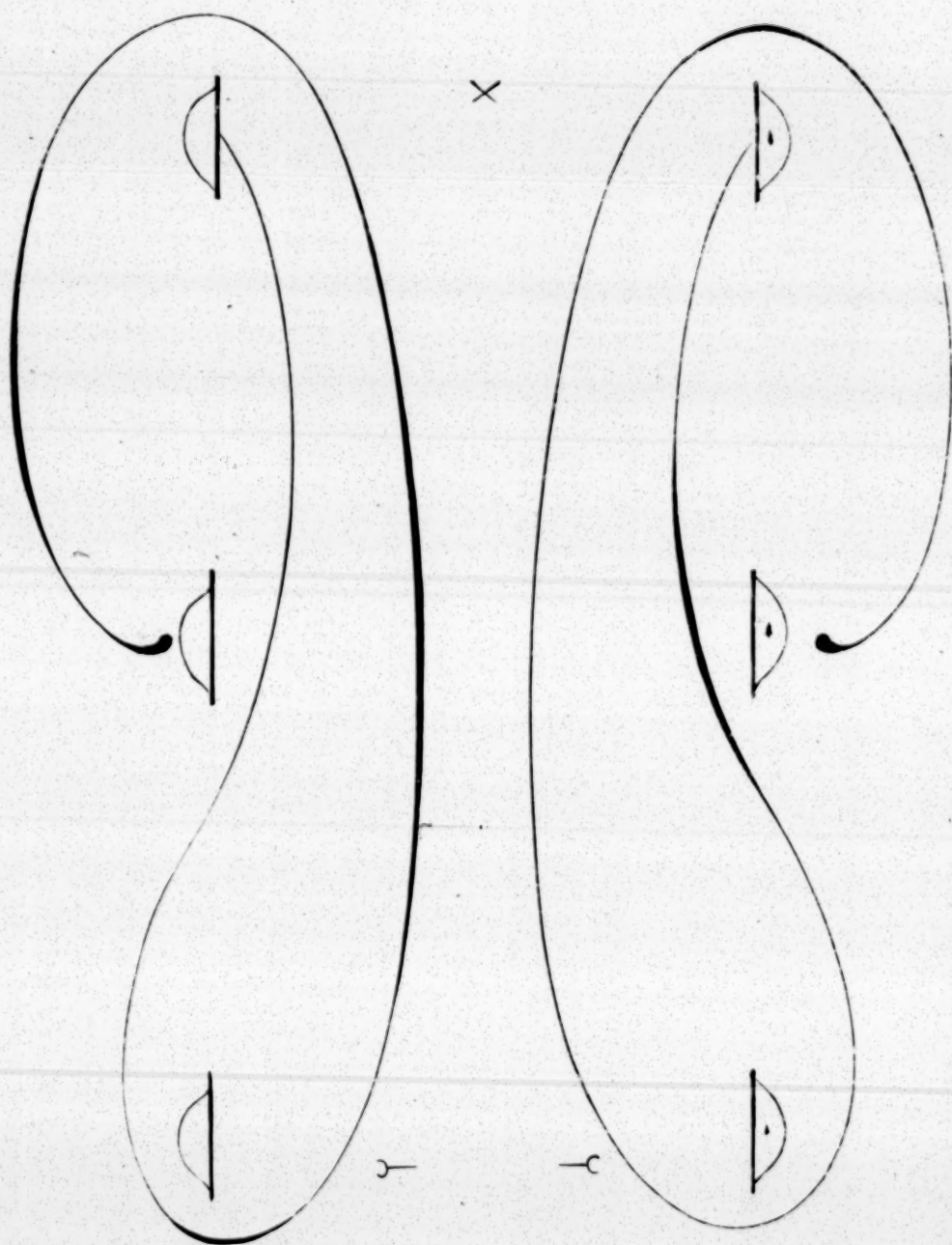


*Half figure up Contrary sides, & down
again of your own?*

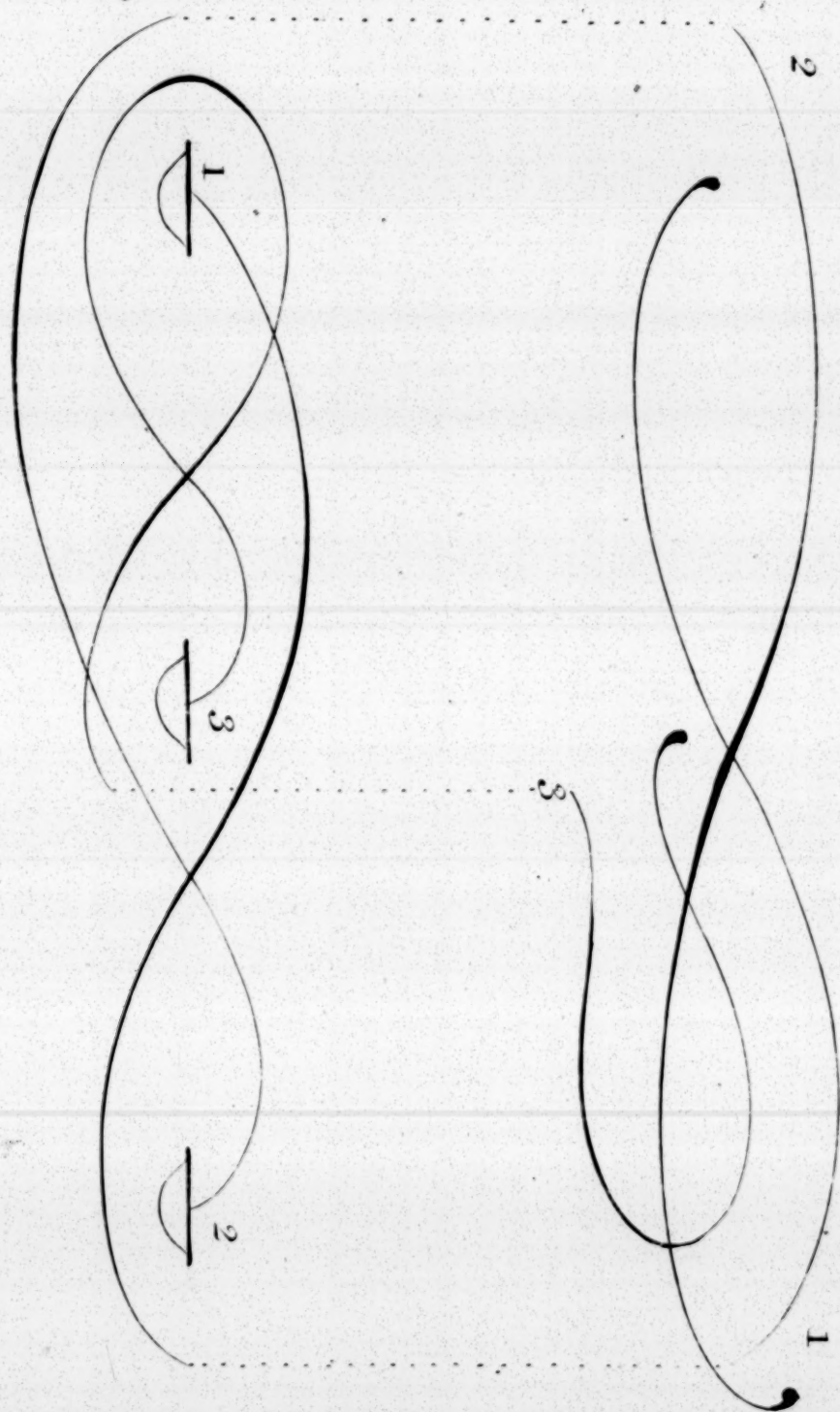


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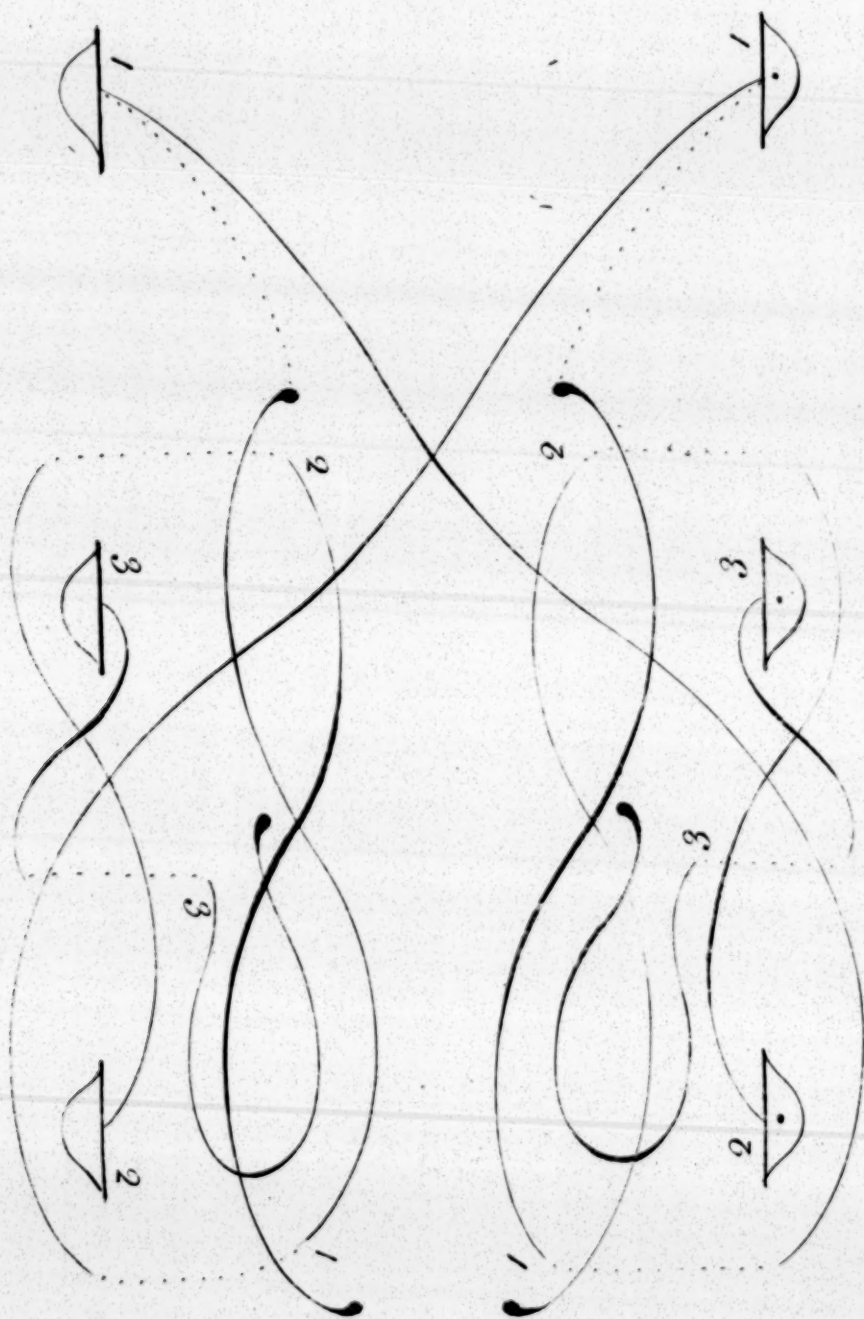
*Half figure of your own sides, lead up two
Co. and Cast of one Co.*



To Hey you are to observe as the figures
are markt the 1st 2^d or 3^d Persons are to move
according as the figures are markt.

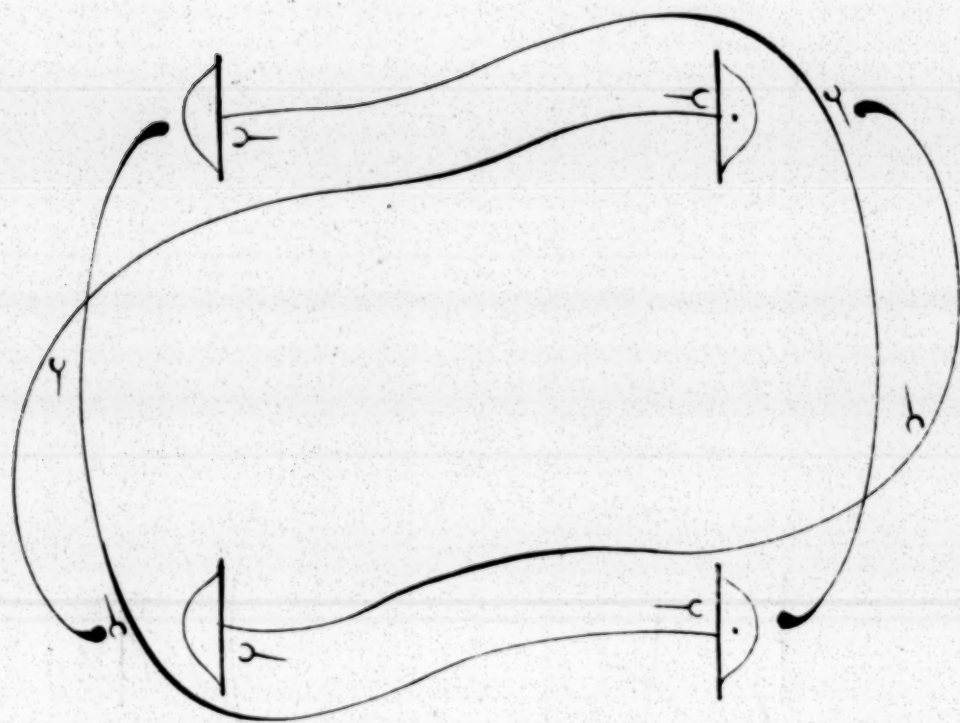


*They Contrary Sides, the Man & Wo: at
the Same time*

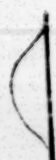
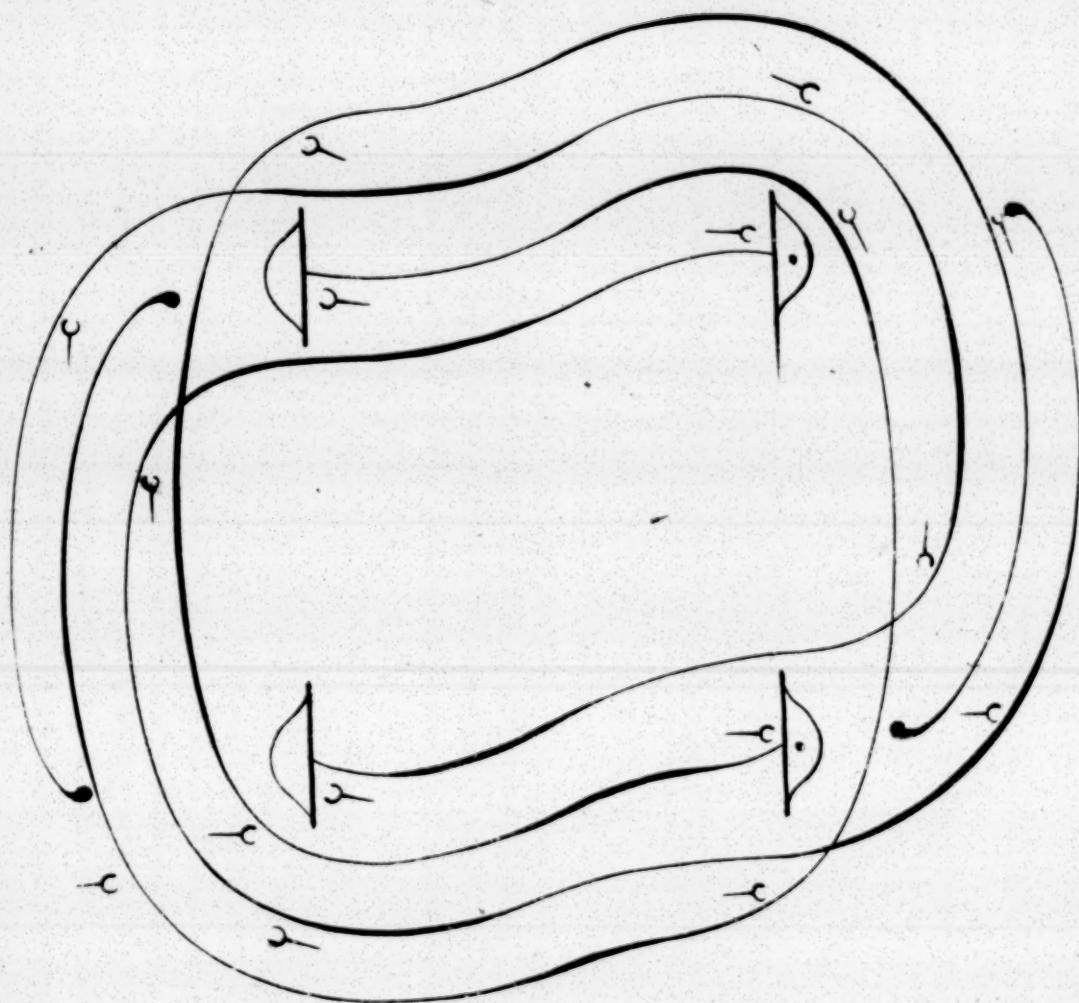


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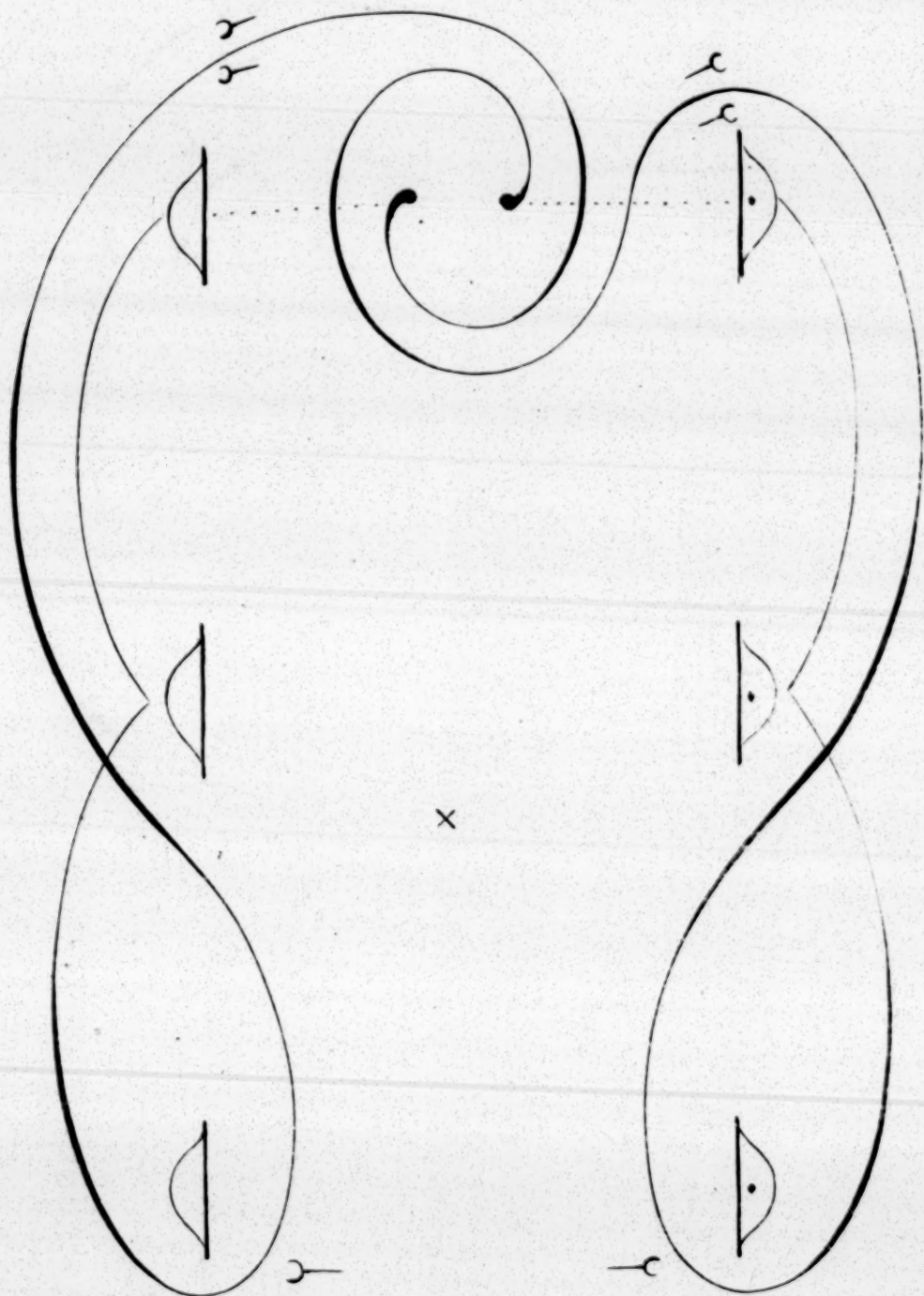
Right and left half round —



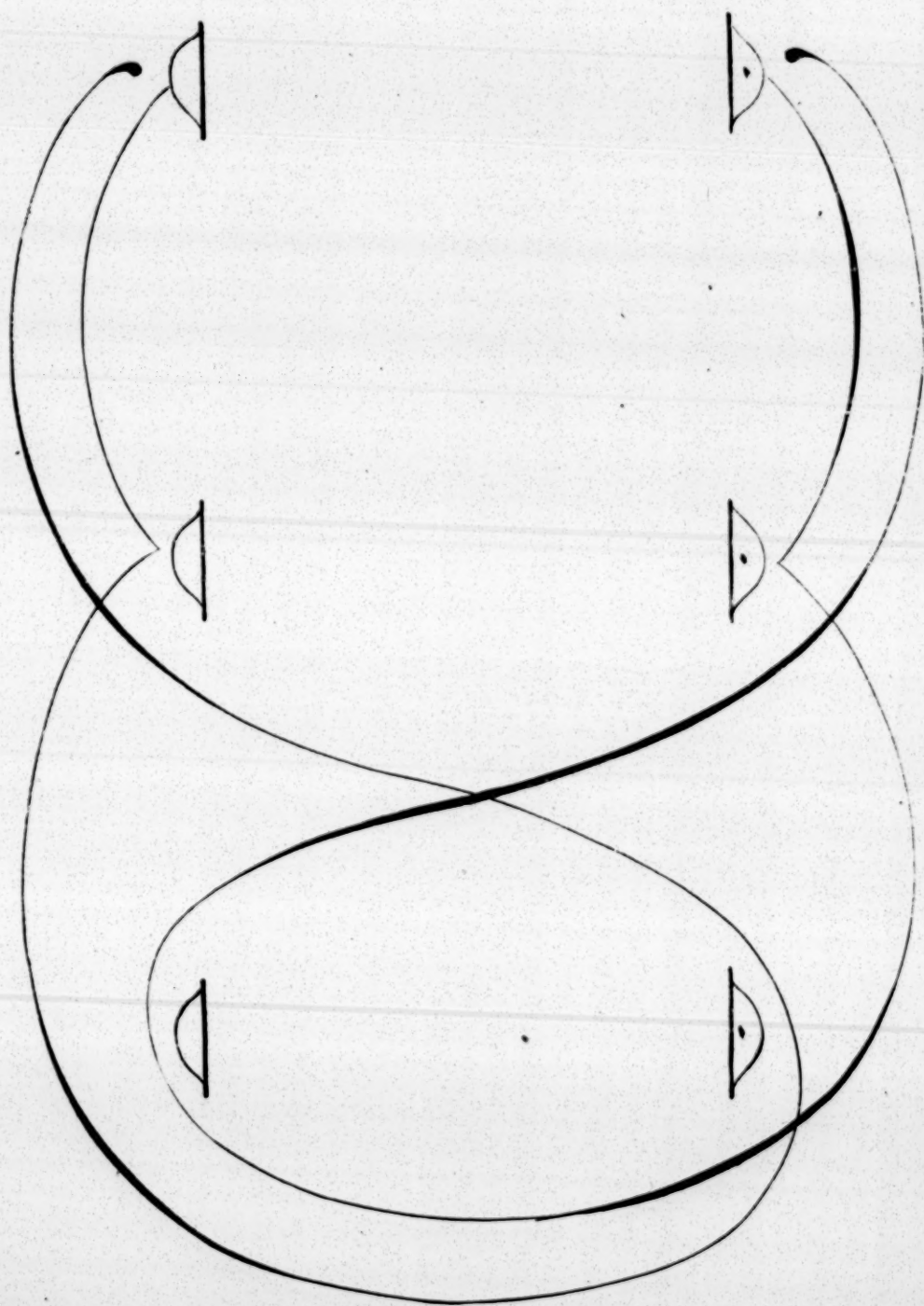
Right and left quite round



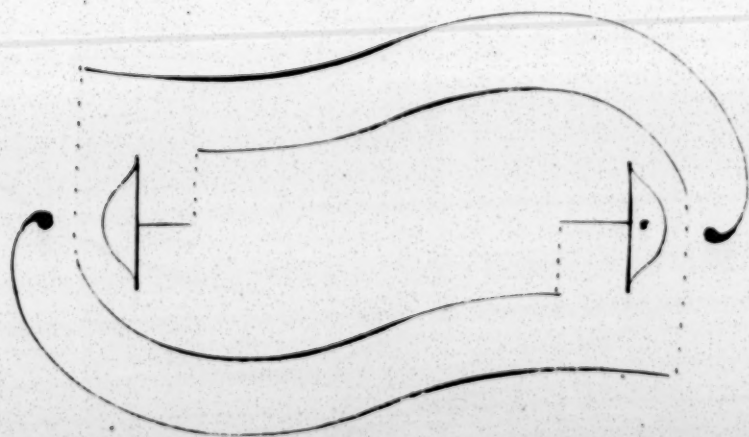
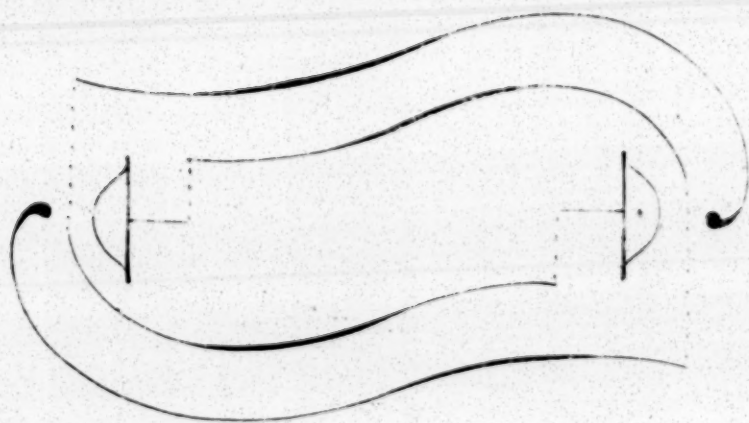
*Cast of two Co. lead up one Co. & outside
your top Co. & turn your Partner at top*



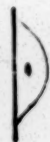
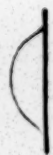
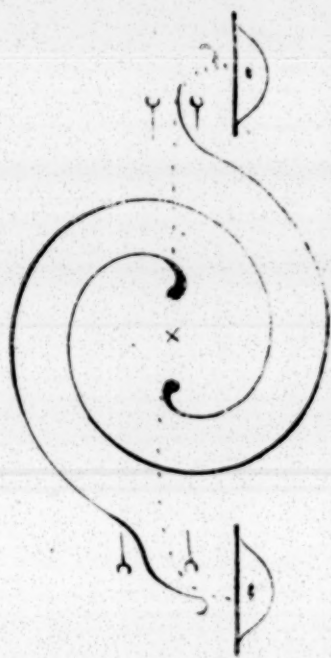
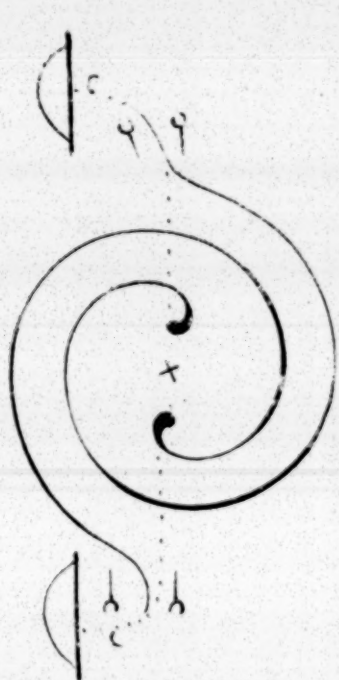
*Cast of two Co: and Cross up into Couple, &
finish in your own places*



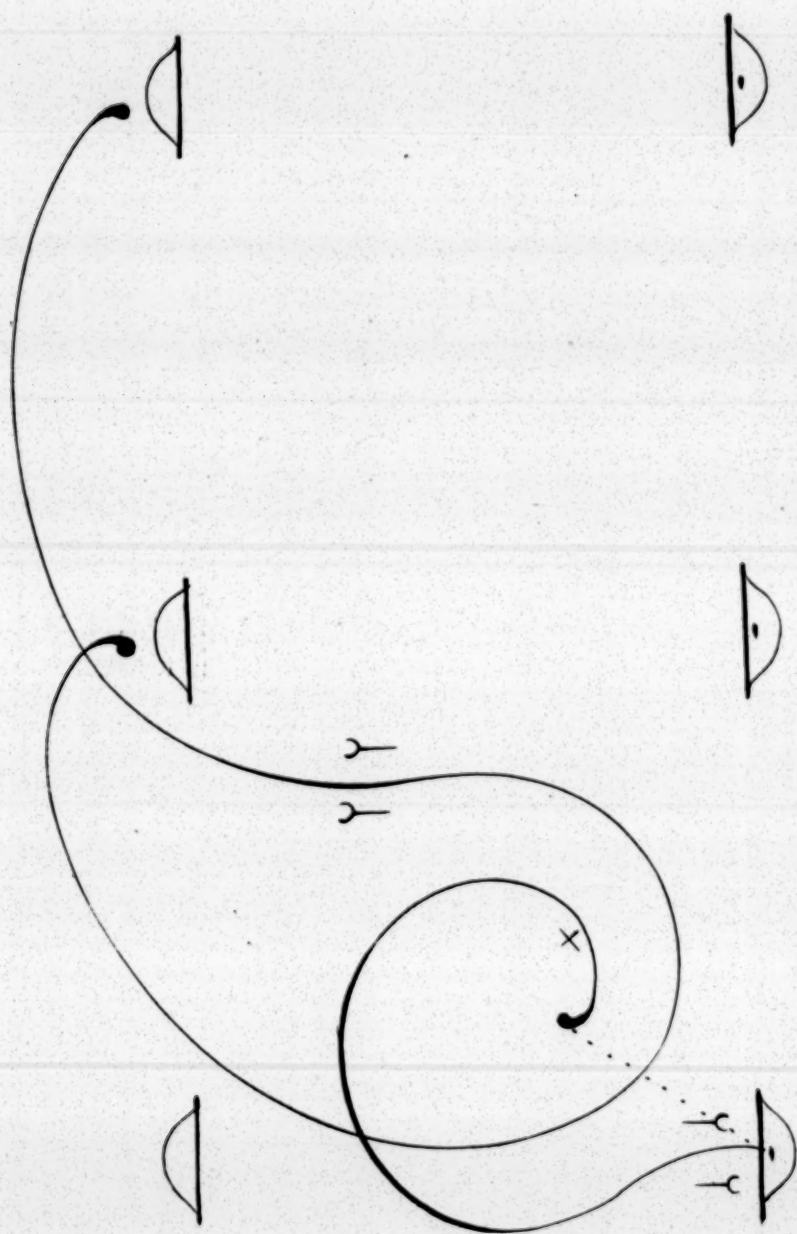
*The first 3 Men & 3 Wo. set together, &
Change over, & the same back again to your
own places*



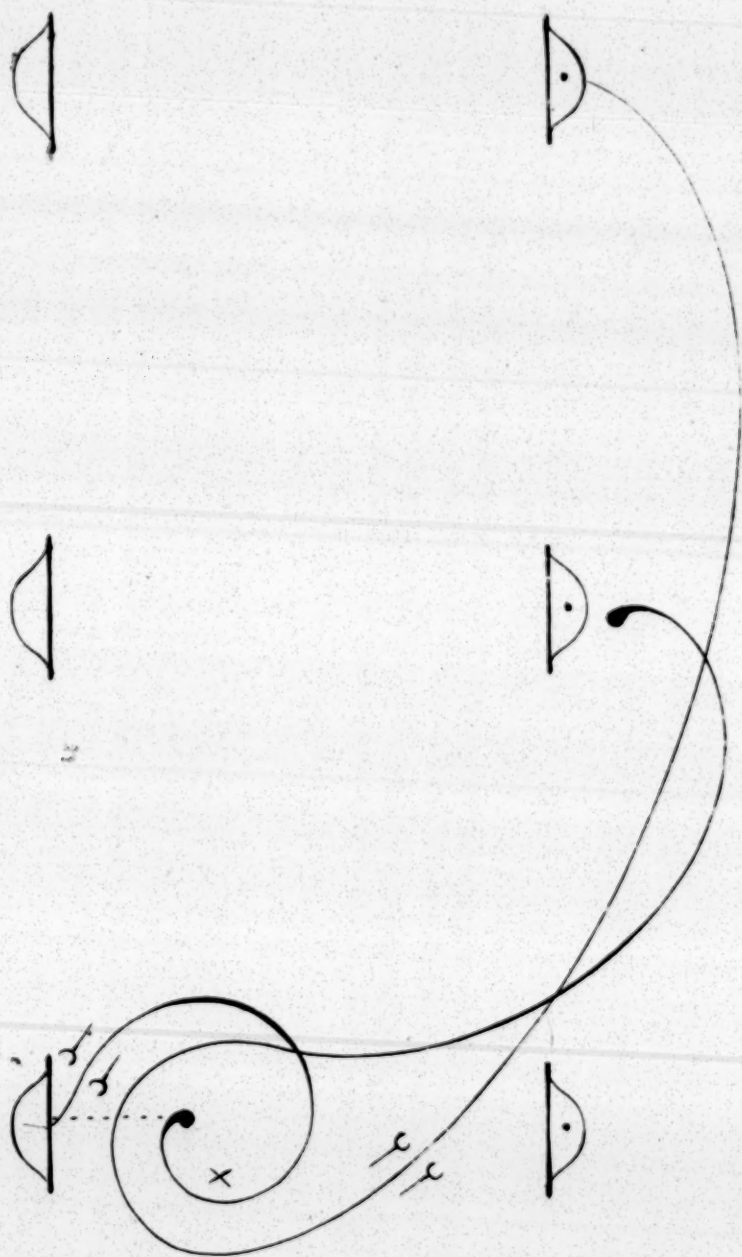
*Foot it Sideways and turn, or the two
first Men & the two first W^o: foot it. or
set together and turn*



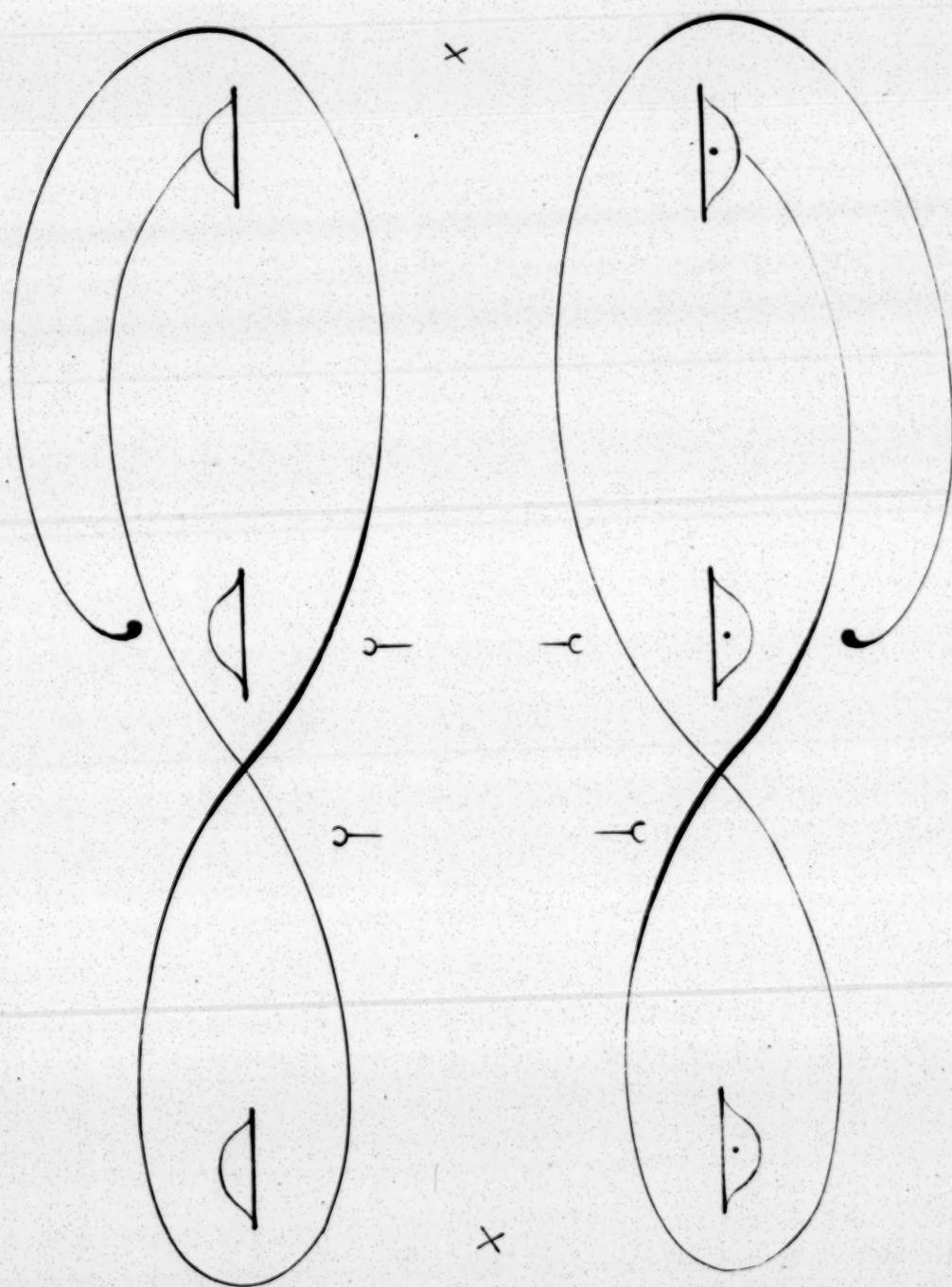
The 1st Man Cast of one Co: & turn, the 3^d
 Wo: and the 1st Man finish in the 2^d Mans
 place the Wo: stands still at y^e same time



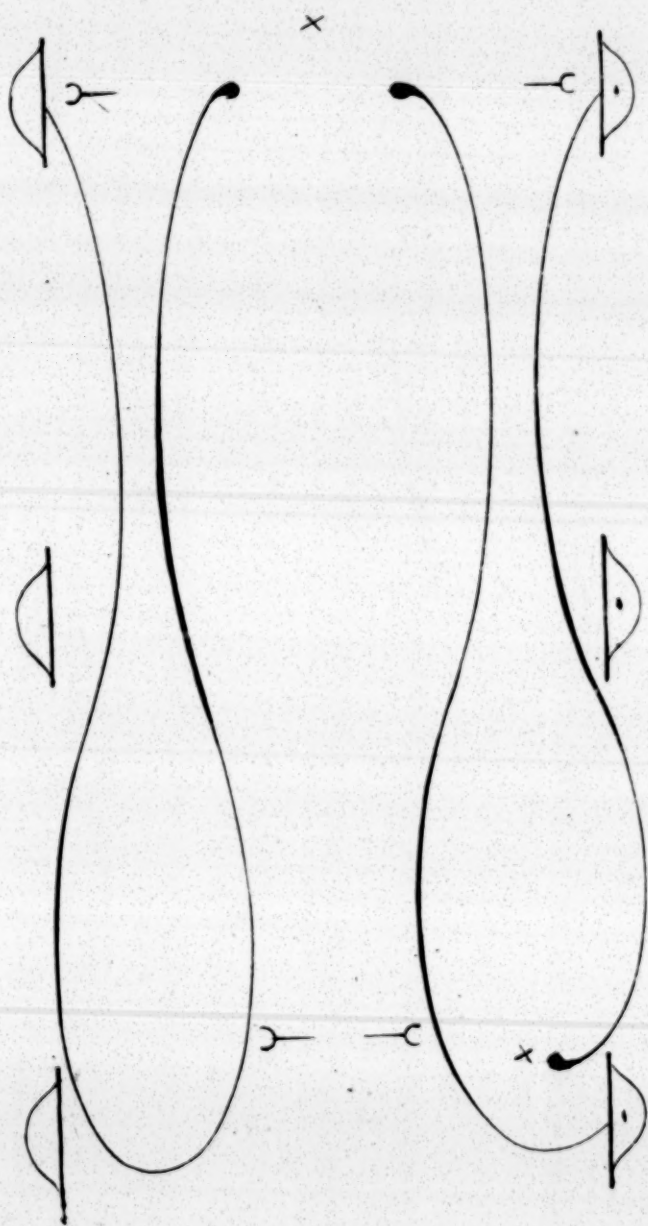
*The 1st Wo. Casts of one Co. Turns, & 3^d man
and the 1st Wo. finishes in the 2^d Wo. place; the
Man stands still at the same time*



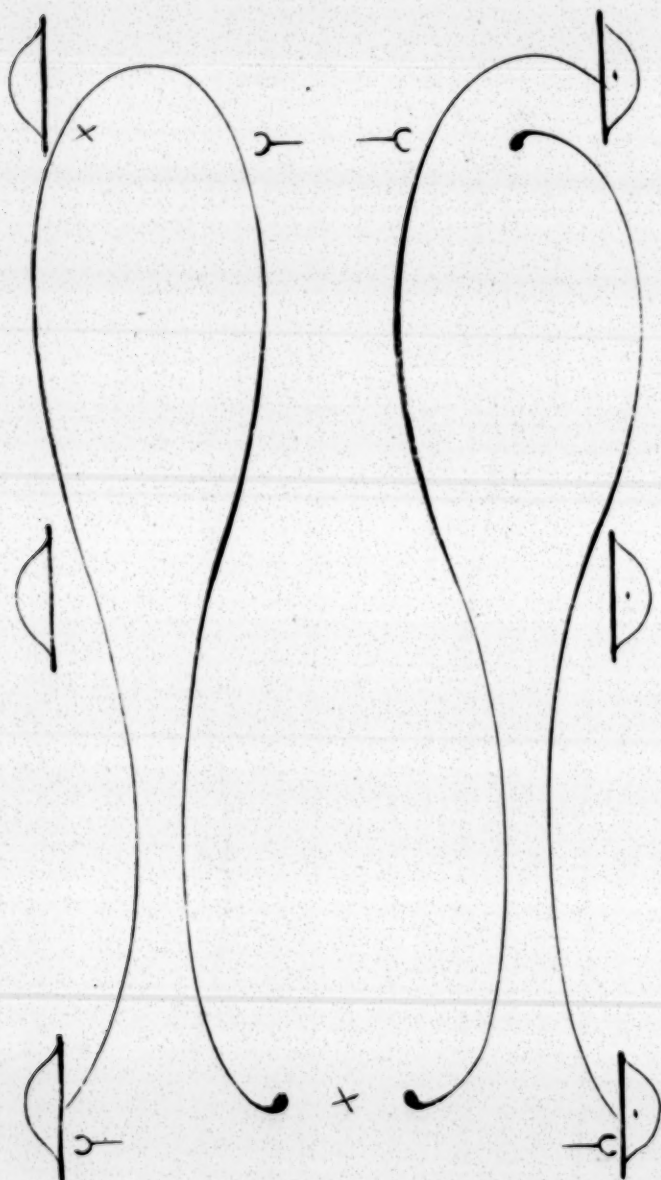
*Cast of one Co. & lead thro' the bottom, and
Cast up one Co. lead thro' the top, & Cast of*



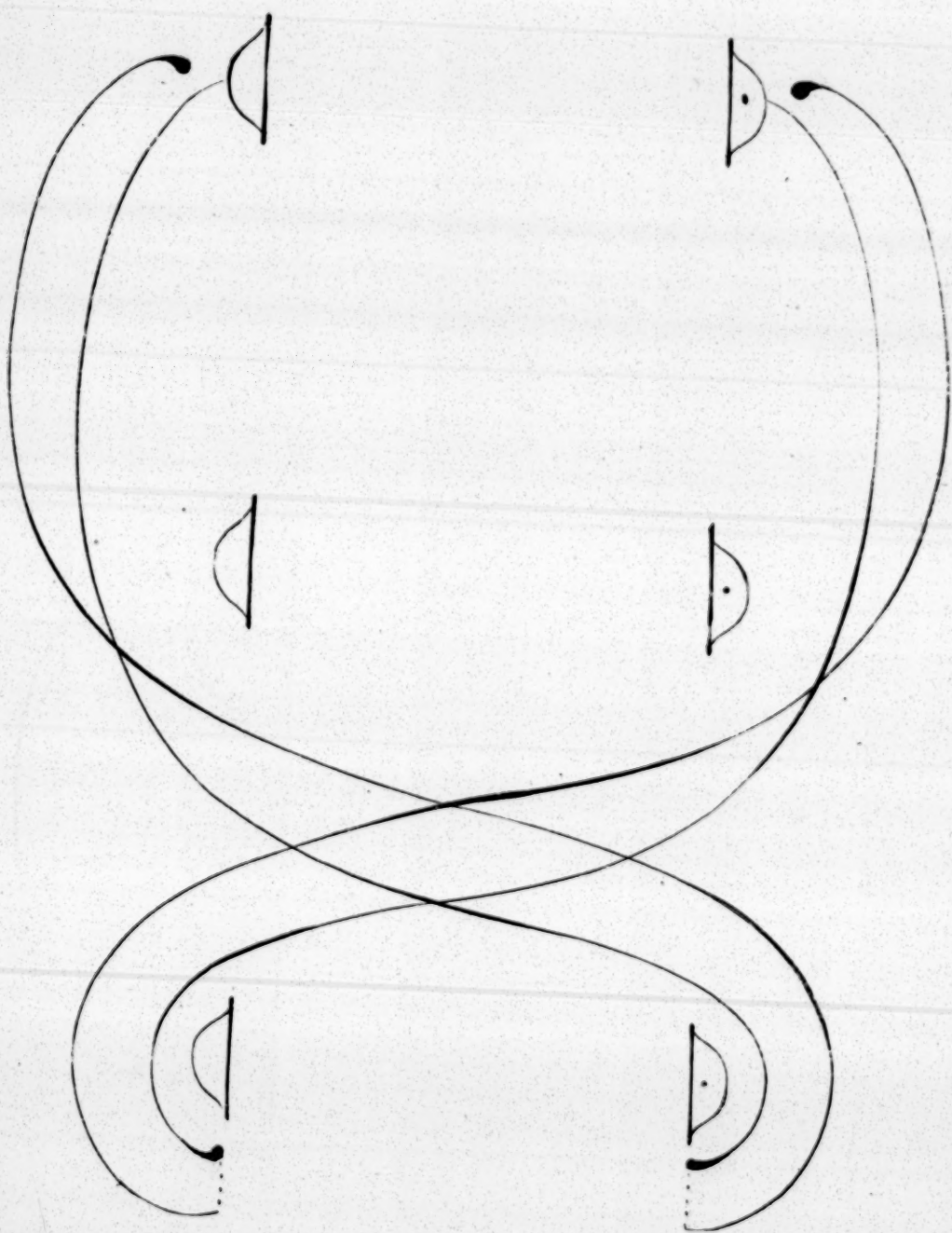
The 1st Man leads his Partner down to y^e 3^d Wo: place, leaves her there and brings up the 3^d Wo. to the top.



The 3^d Man leads up the 1st Wo: which is in
the 3^d Wo: place & leaves her at top and brings
his Partner back to her own place.

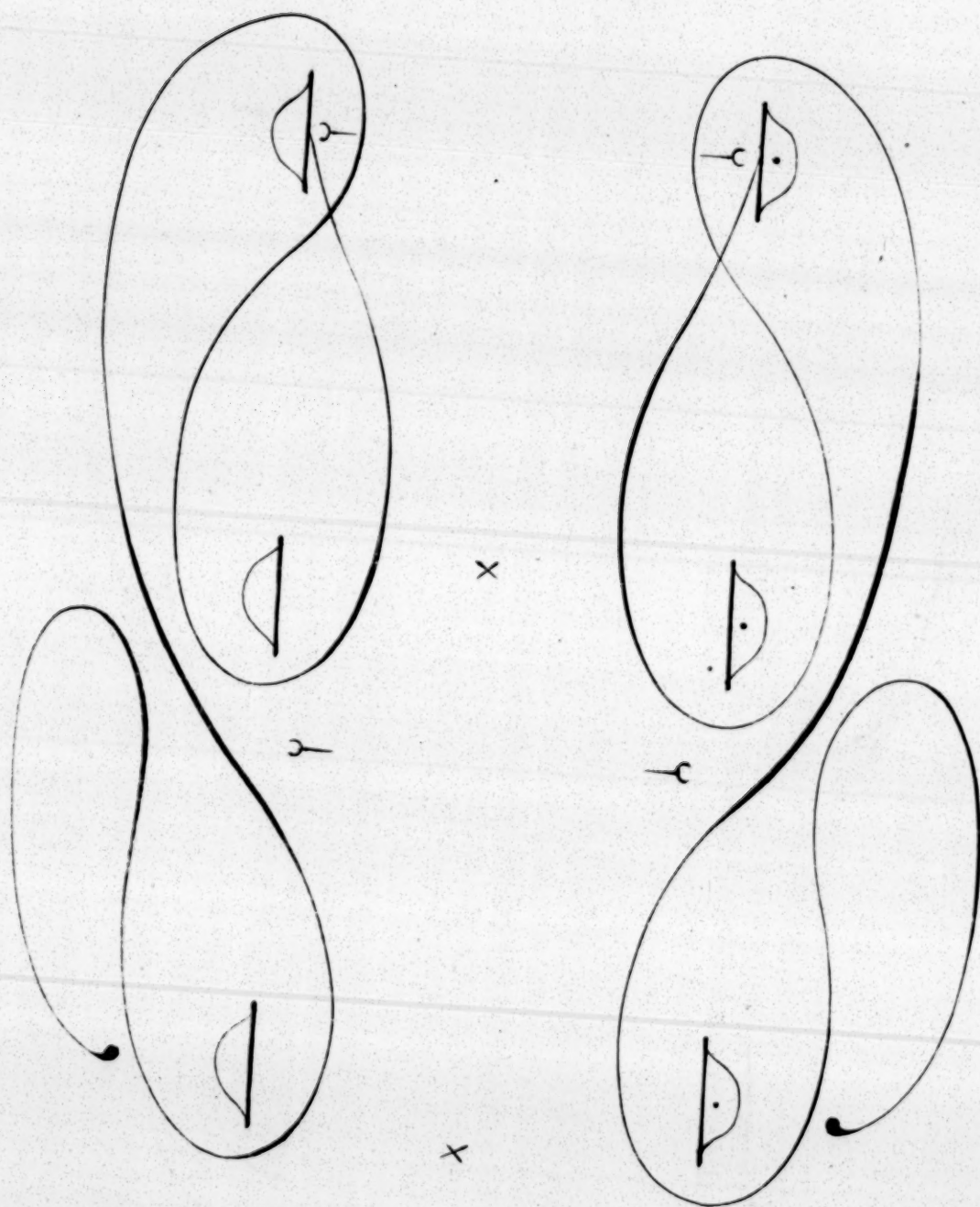


*Cast of one Co. and Cross over the $\frac{d}{3}$ Co. then
Cast up again & Cross over to y^e own Places*

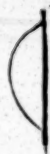
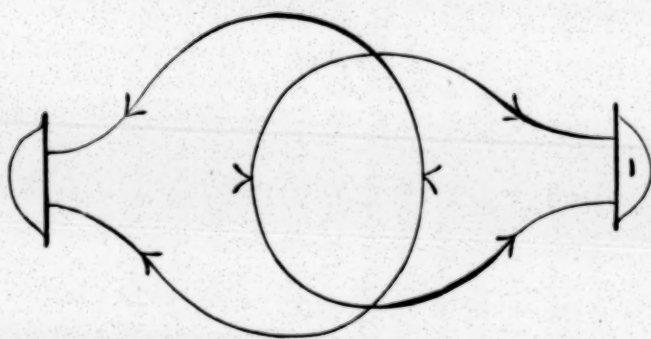


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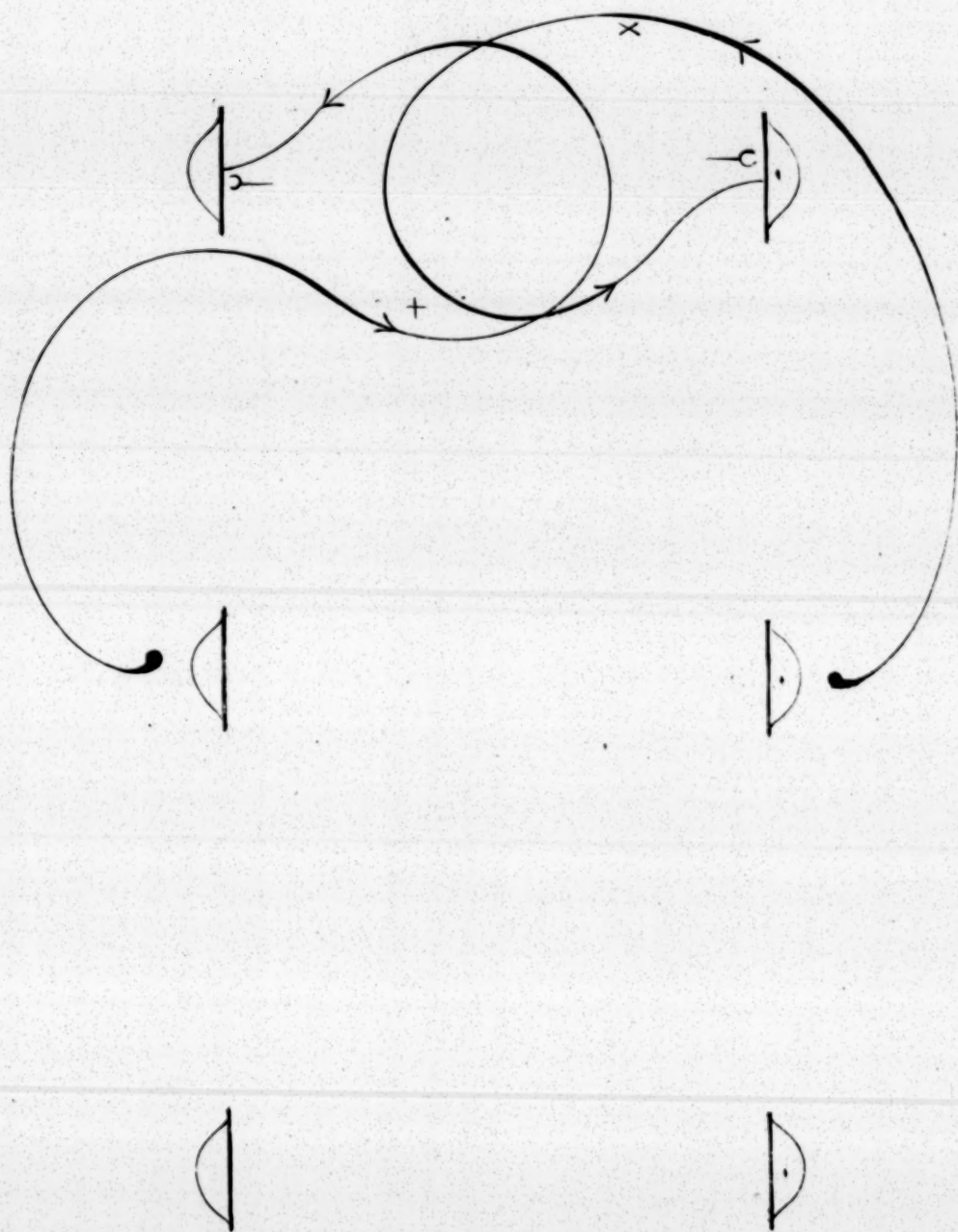
Lead thro' the 2^d Co. & Cast up & Cast of, &
 lead thro' the 3^d Co. & Cast up and Cast of



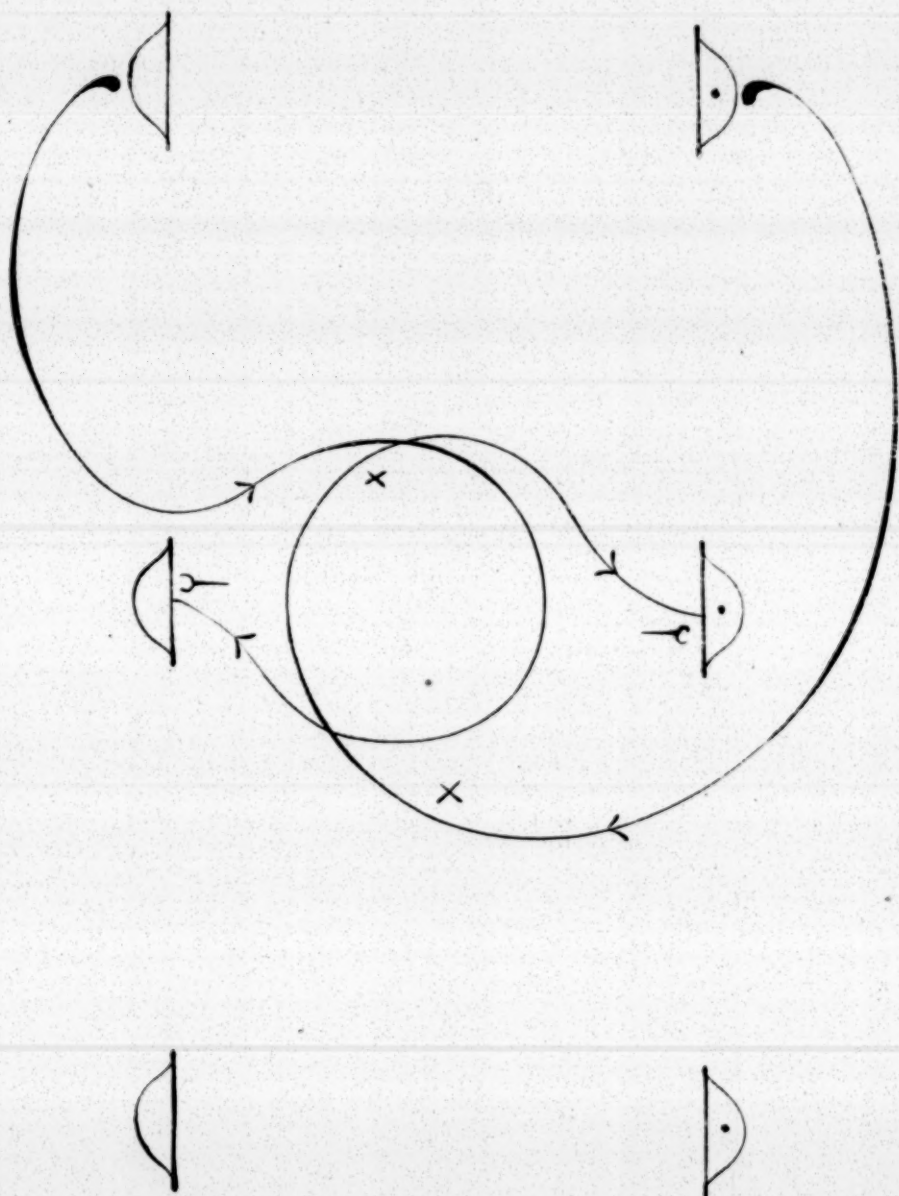
Back to Back with your Partner



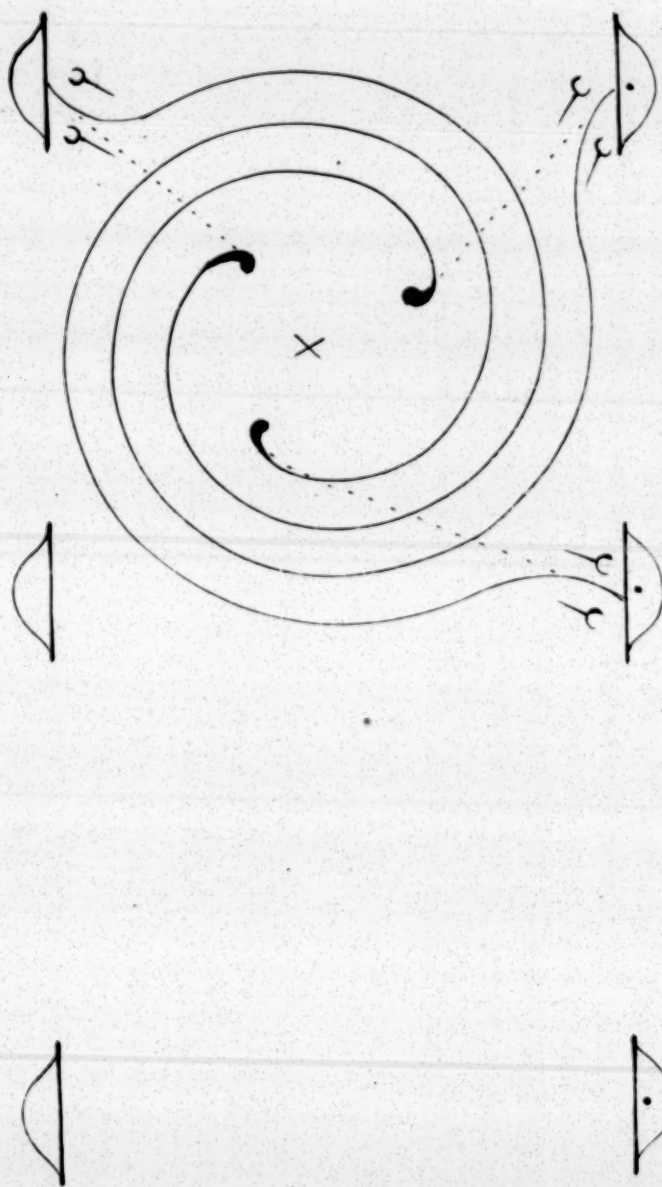
*The 1st Man turns his Partner with his
right hand, and both Cast of one Co.*



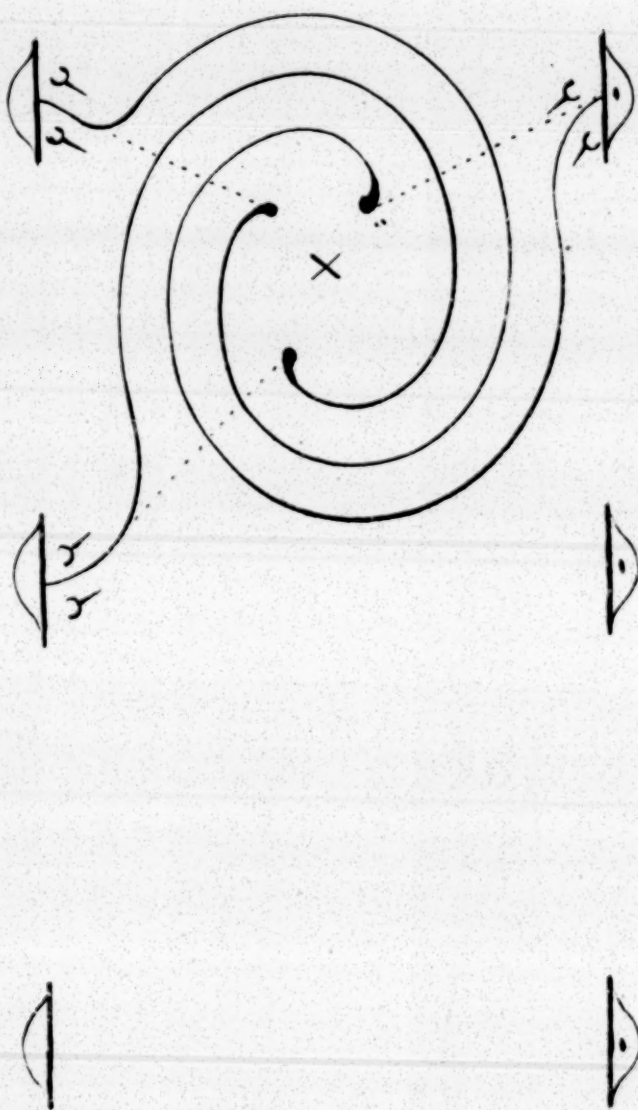
The 1st Man now which is in the 2^d Mans
Place turns his Partner with his left hand.
and both Cast up again.



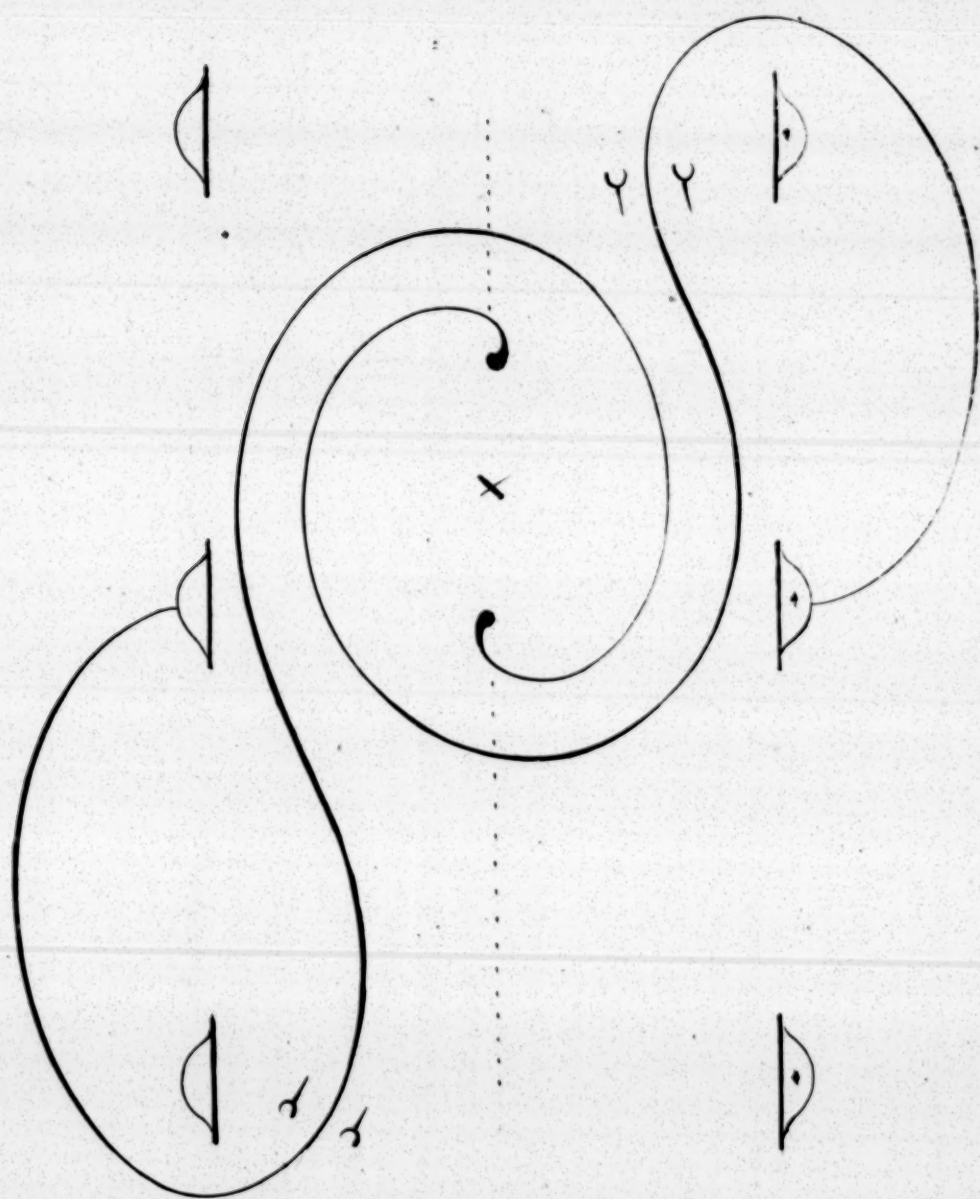
*The 1st Man & Wo. sets to the 2^d Wo. and
hands all three round to their own places*



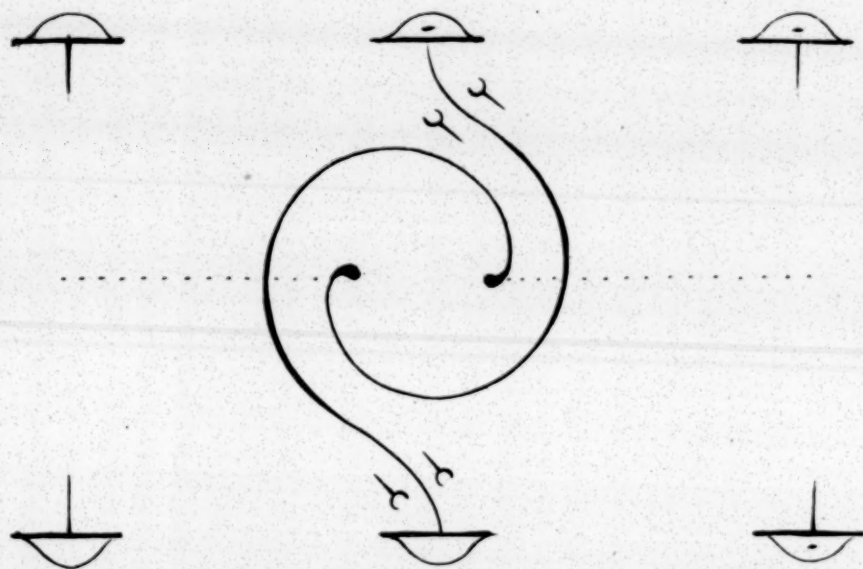
The 1st man and wo takes hands & sits to
the 2^d man, and all three round to their own
places



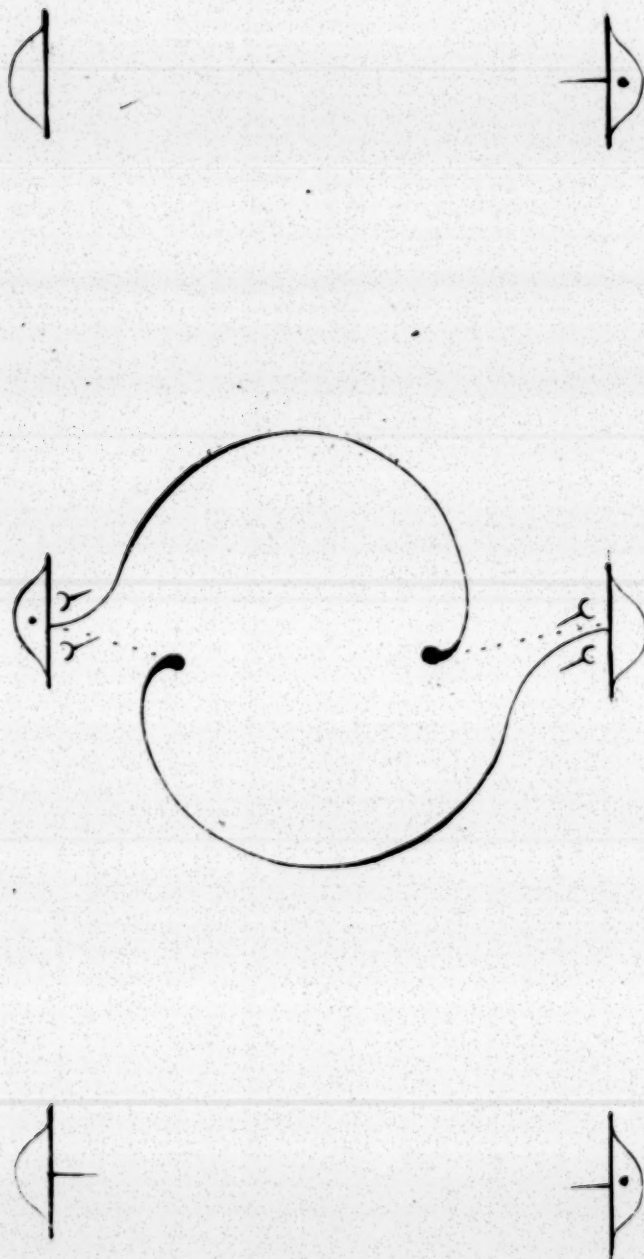
The 2^d man Casts of below the 3^d man, & the
 2^d wo at the same time Casts up round the 1st wo.
 and meets partners in the middle and turns;
 and the man finishes in the middle at bottom,
 and the wo. in the middle at top



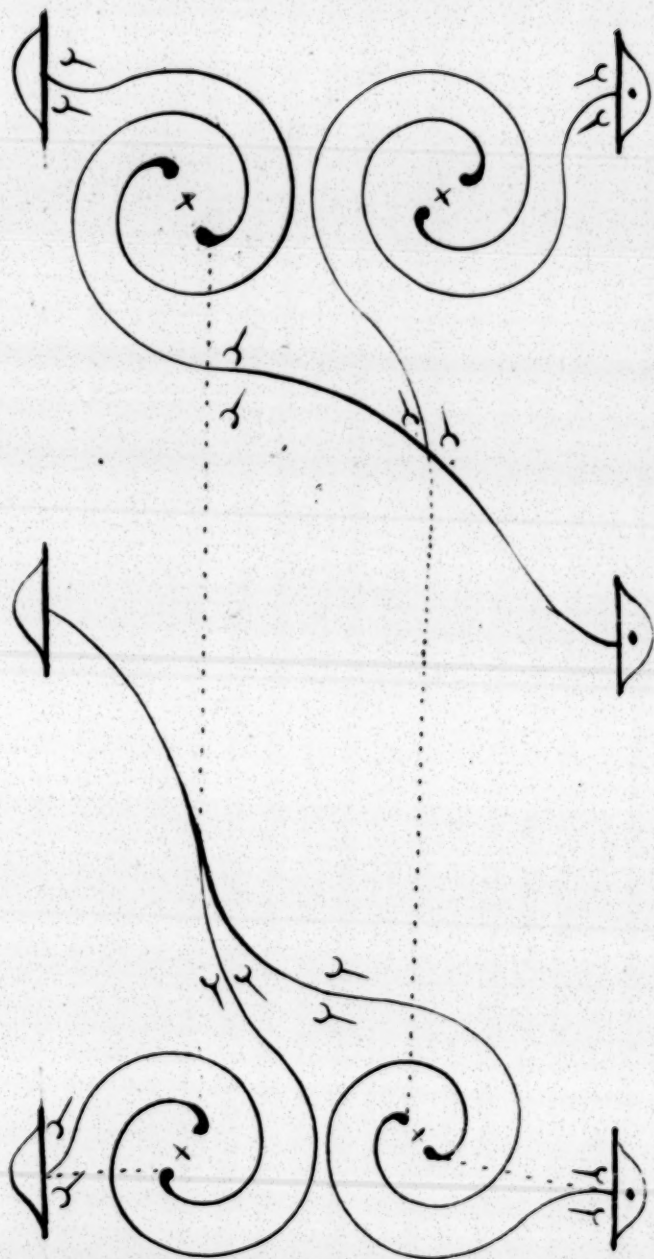
Set 3 & 3, & the middle. Man & Wo: turns -
hands; & the. Man finishes in the middle of the
Wo: side, & the Wo: in the middle of y^e Mans side.



*Set 3 & 3 again, & the middle. Man & Wo:
turns hands, & finishes of their own sides.*

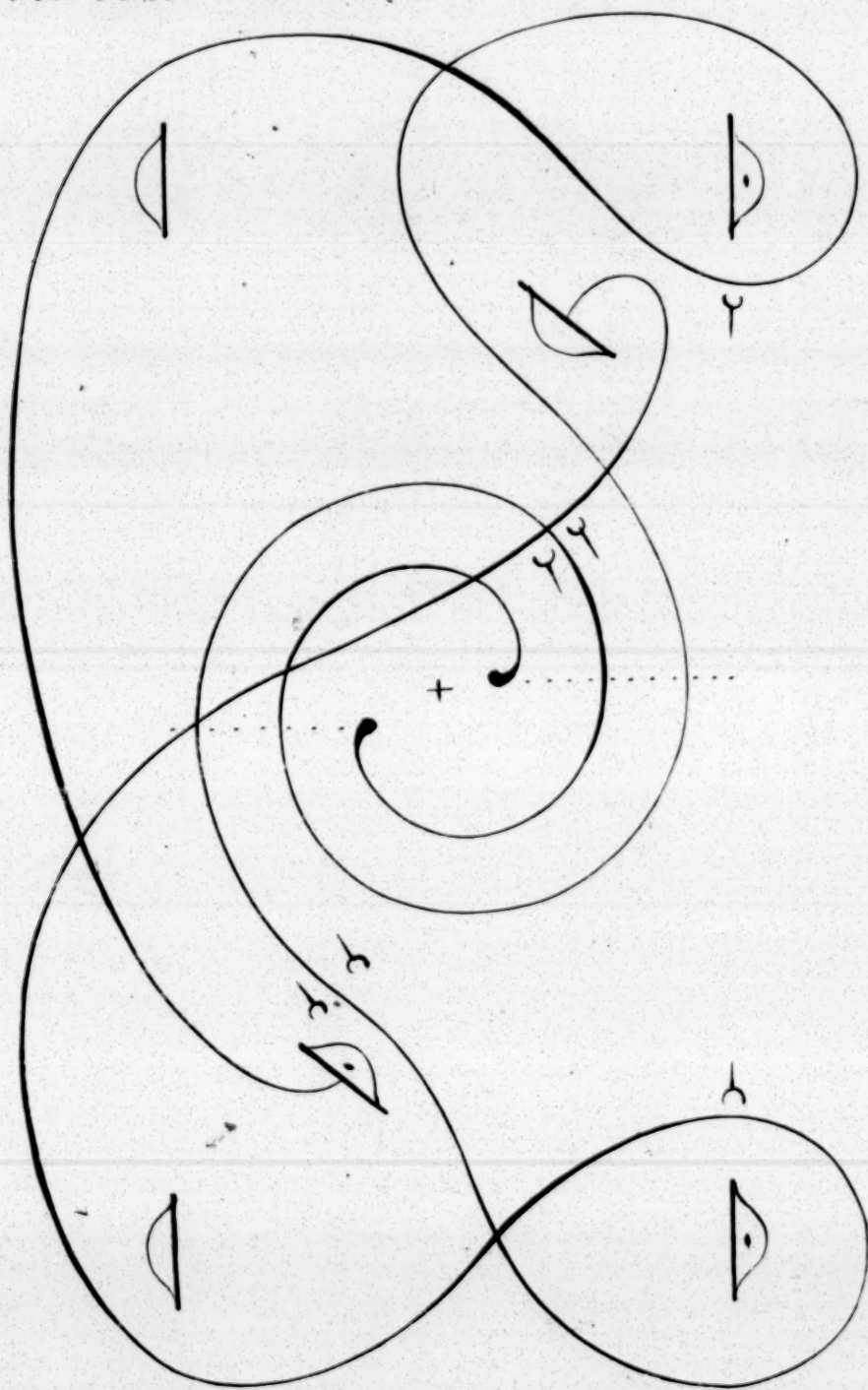


The 2^d man & two sets Corners & turn hands



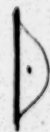
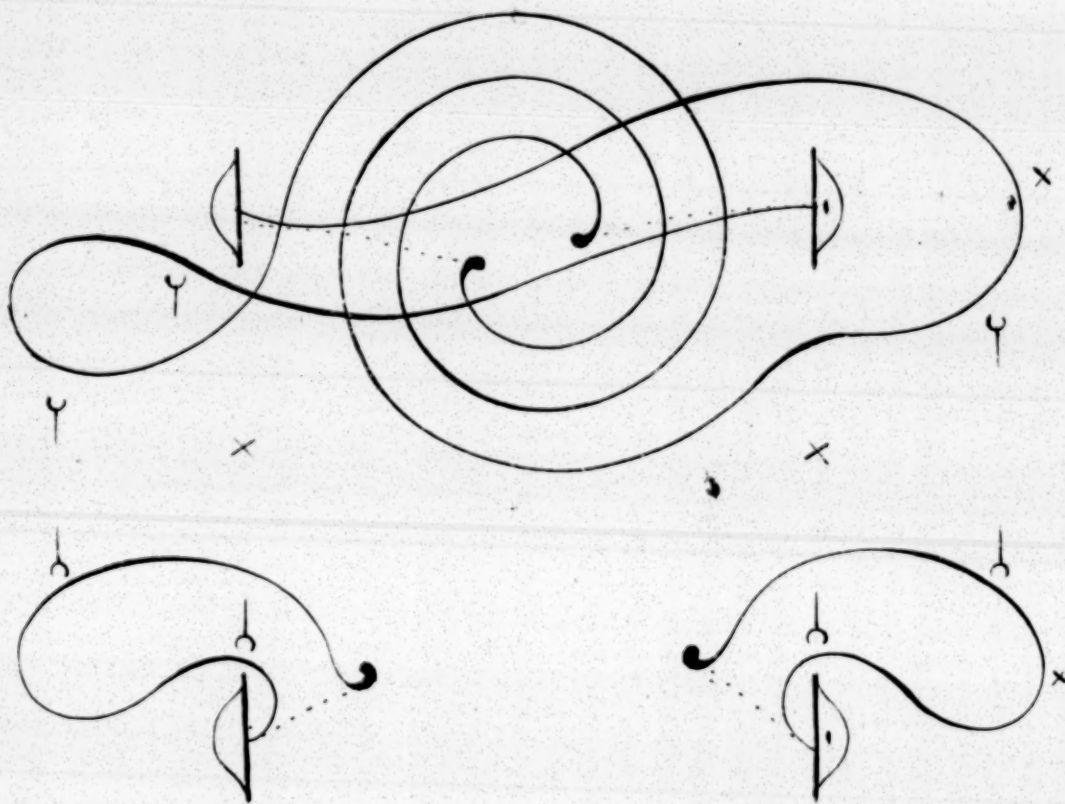
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*Lead out Sides and turn in the middle;
the man and wo to begin where they left of
on the other Side*

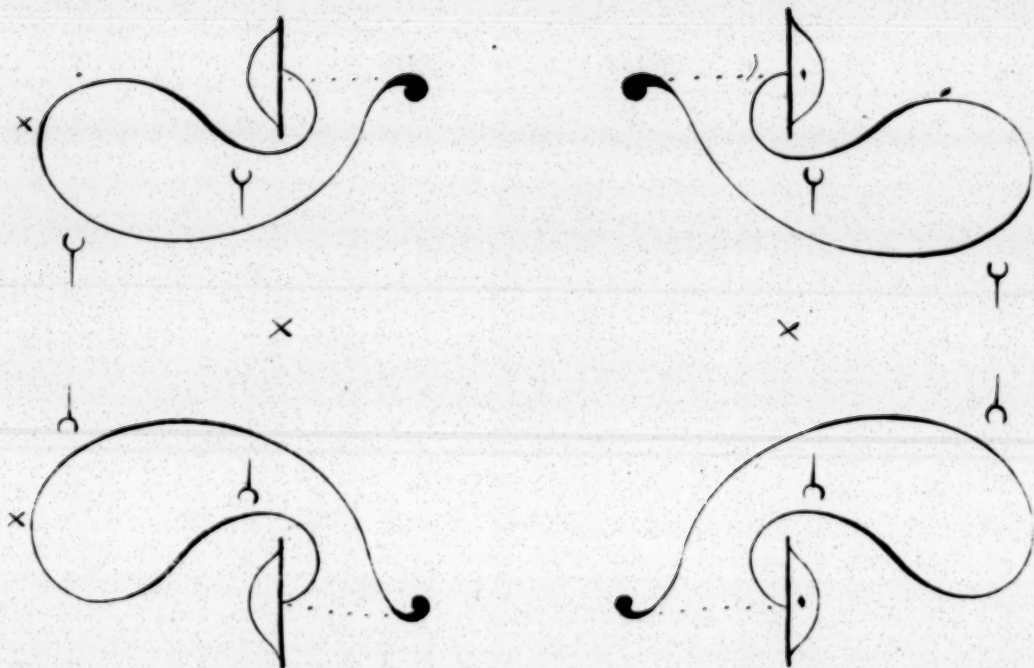


Published according to Act of Parliament April 23 1752 Nicholas Duka

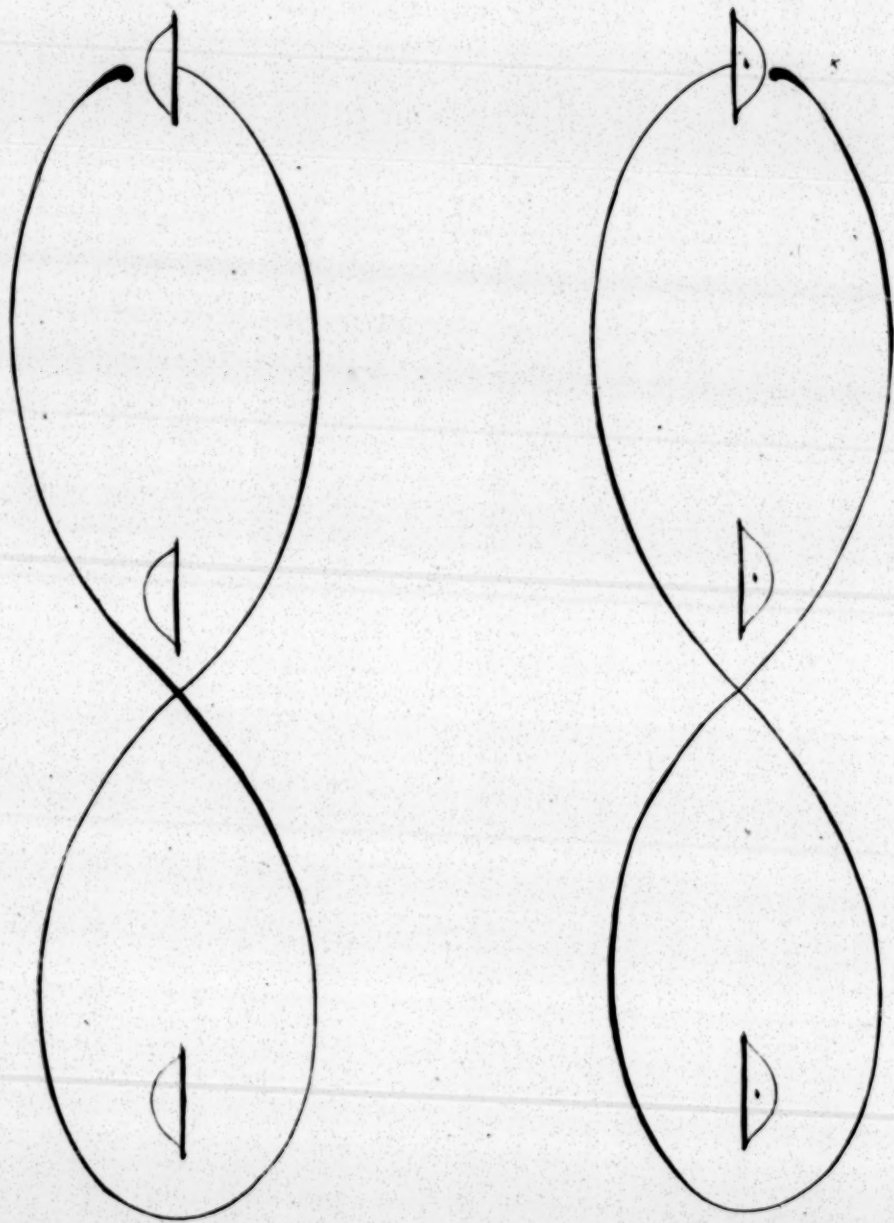
The 1.st Man leads the 2.^d Wo: out sides & turns -
 Innards again the 1.st Wo: does the same with y^e
 2.^d Man & then turns Partners & finish in their
 own places.



*Lead out sides Lin again the two first. Men &
the two first Wo: & finish in their own places*

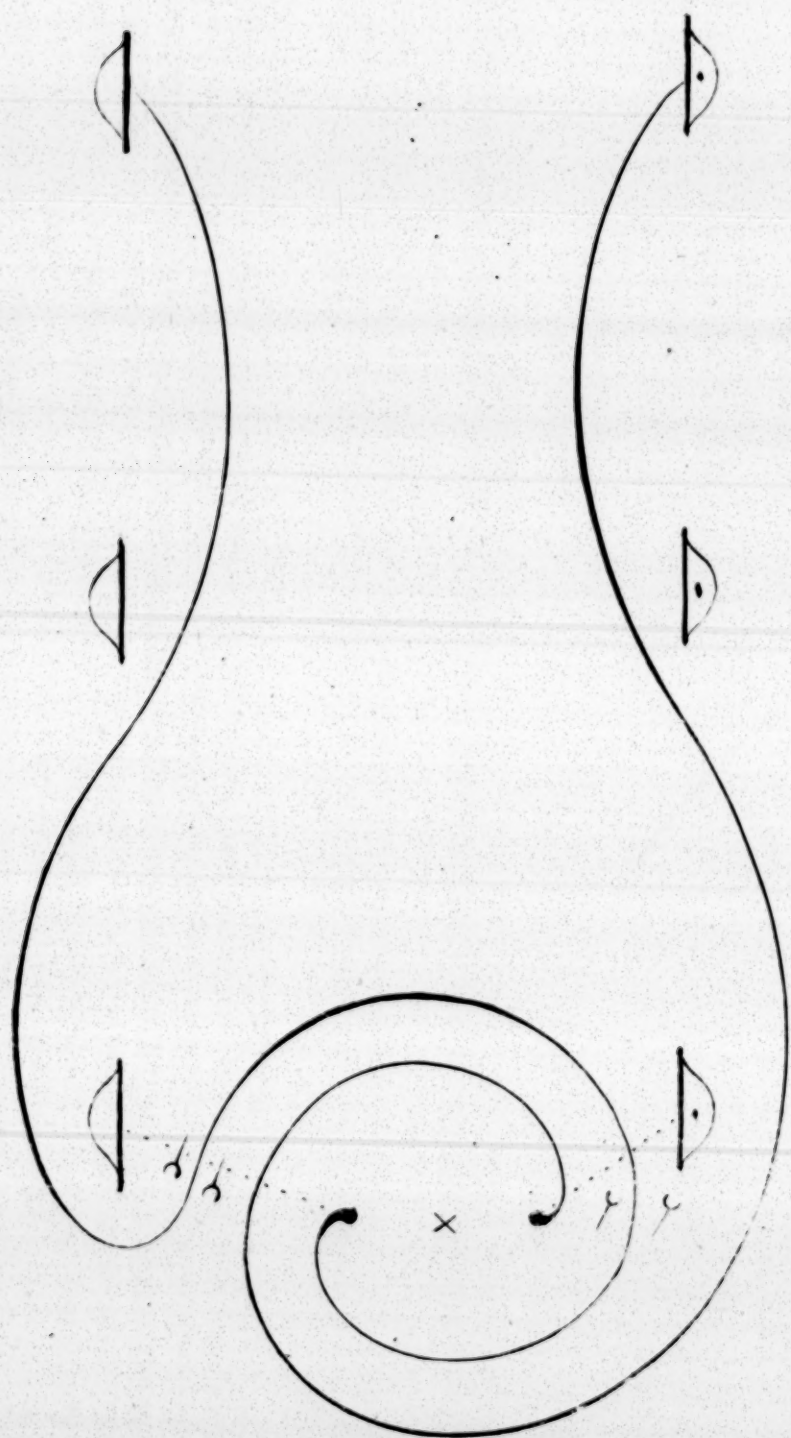


The 1st Man & Woman whole figures on their
own sides.

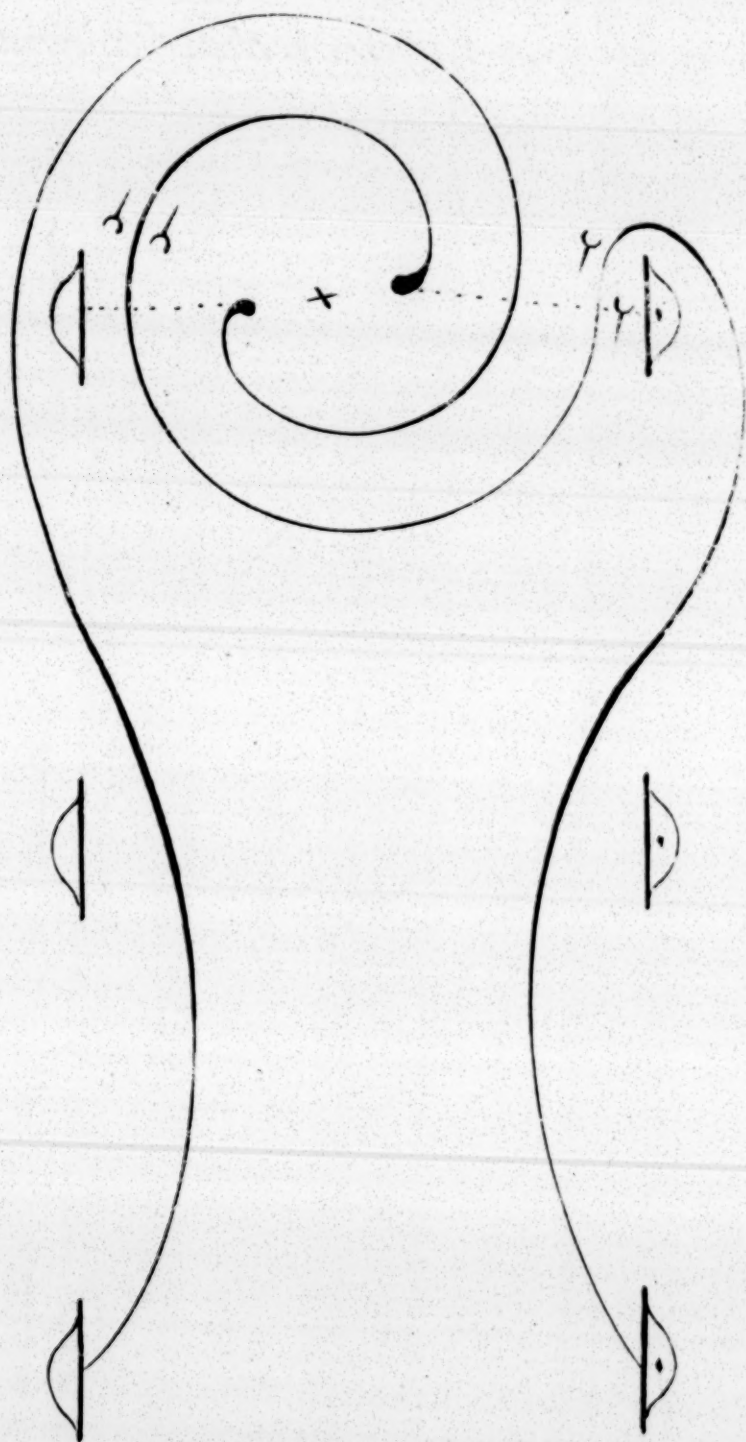


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*The 1.st Man & Wo: half figures down of their
own sides, & turn hands at bottom*

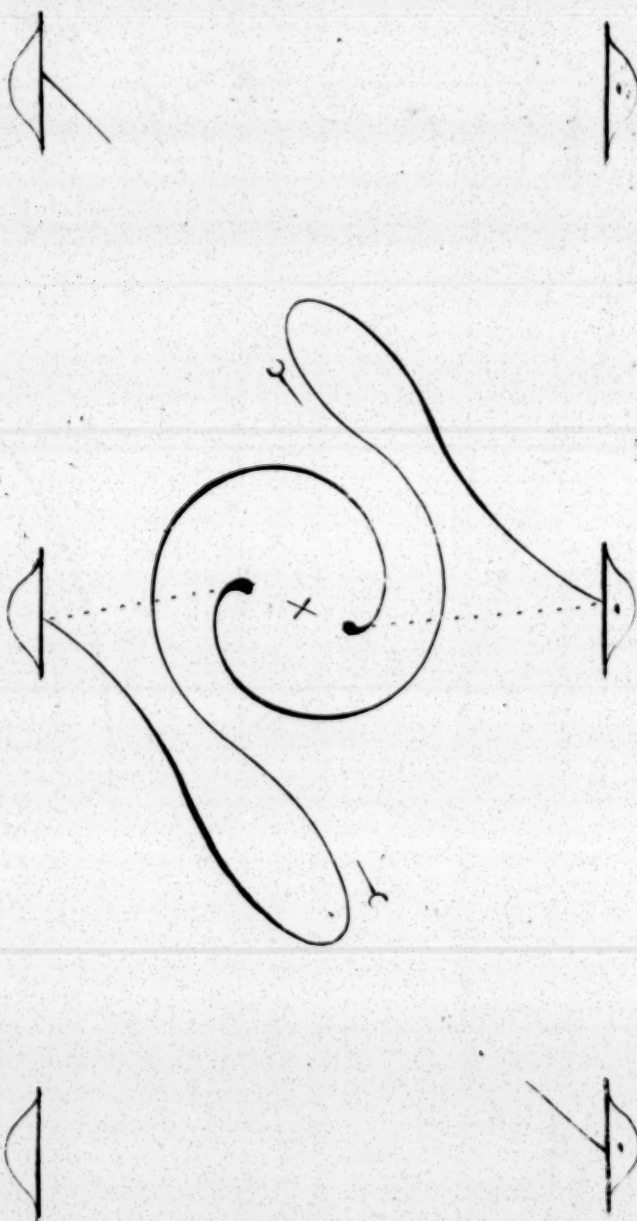


*The 3^d. Man & Wc: half figures up of their
own sides and turns hands at top*

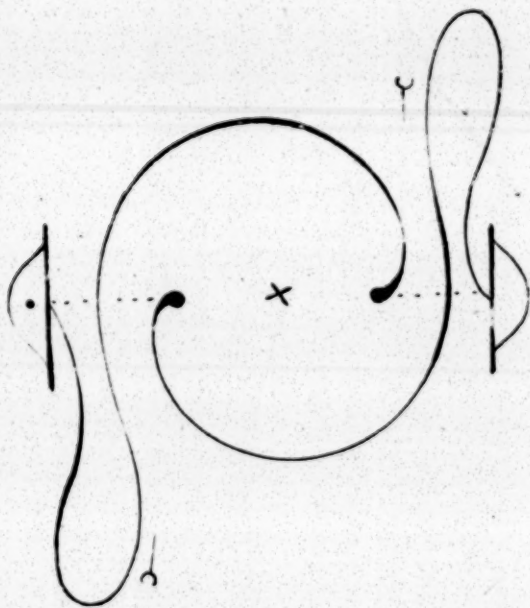
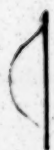


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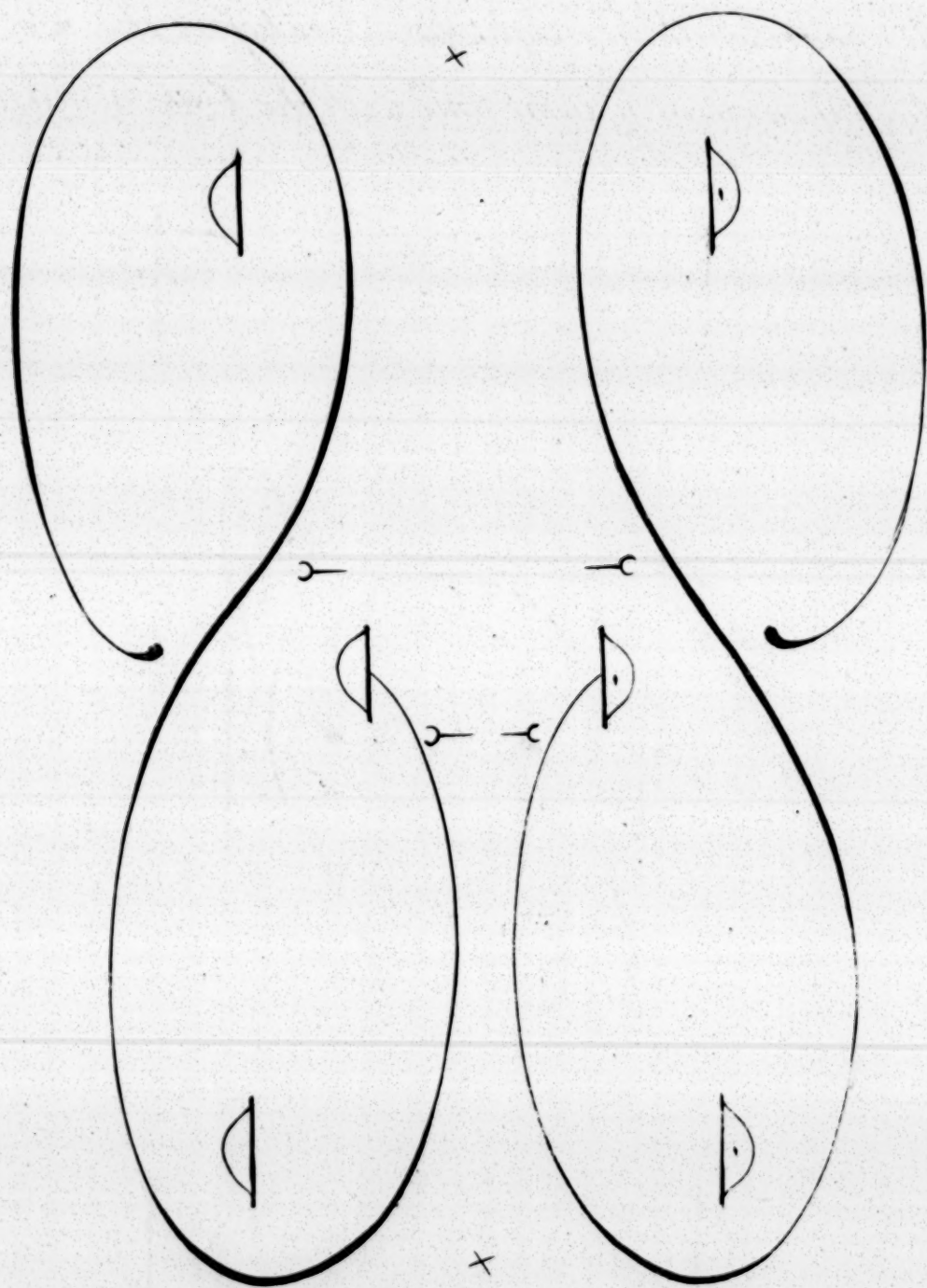
Set Corners, & baulk them, & turn y^r Partner;
 that is, the 2^d Man sets to the 3^d Wo: & not turn
 her, but turn Inwards from her, & turn right
 hands with your Partner, & the 2^d Woman does y^e
 same with the top Man



The man and wo: to begin from where they left
 of on the other Side, and now the man sets to the
 top wo: and baulks her as before, and turns
 his part: with his right hand as before the wo:
 does y^e same, at y^e same time with the bottom man

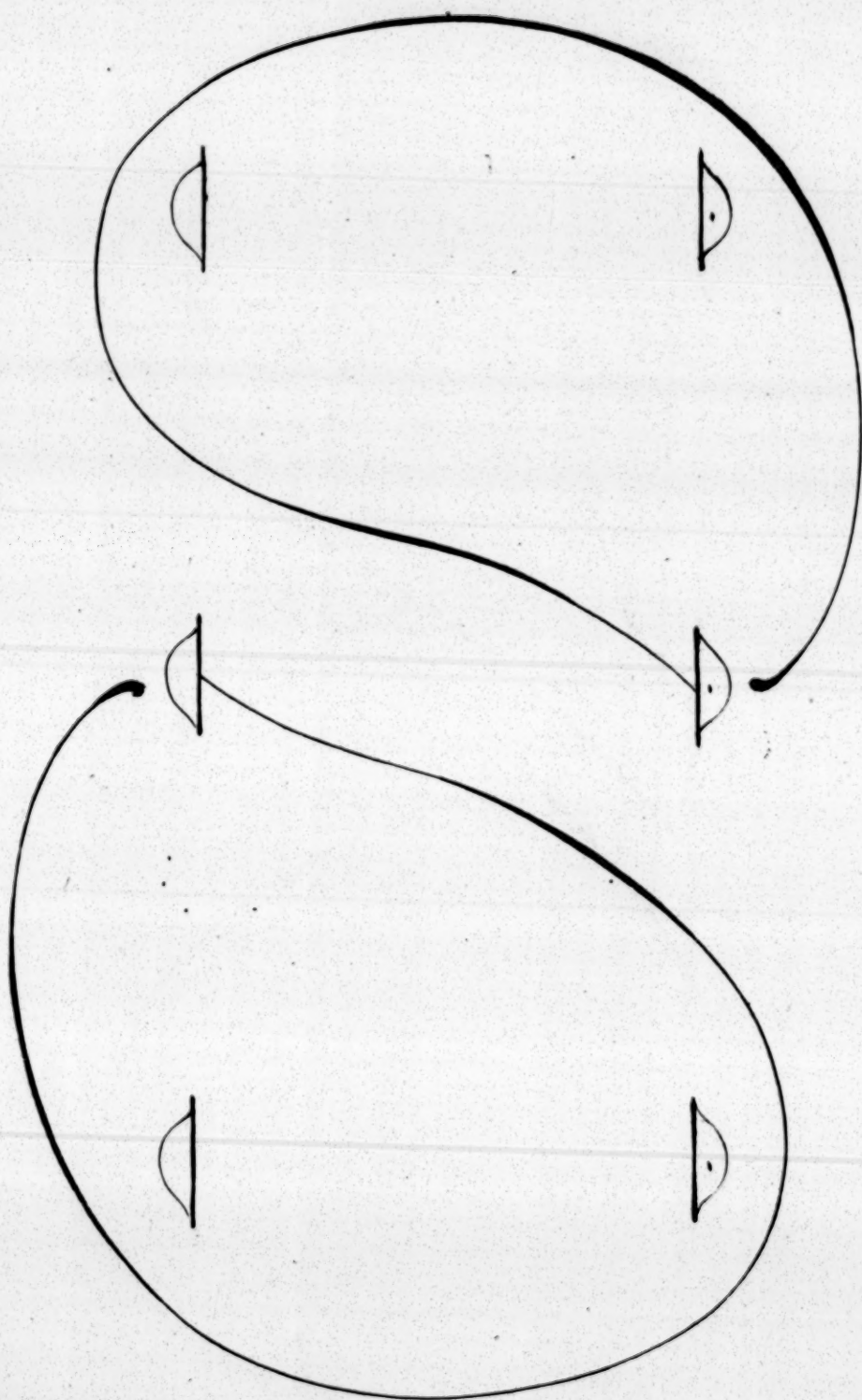


*The middle man & no: leads thro' the bottom, &
Casts up, & lead thro' the top and Cast of*



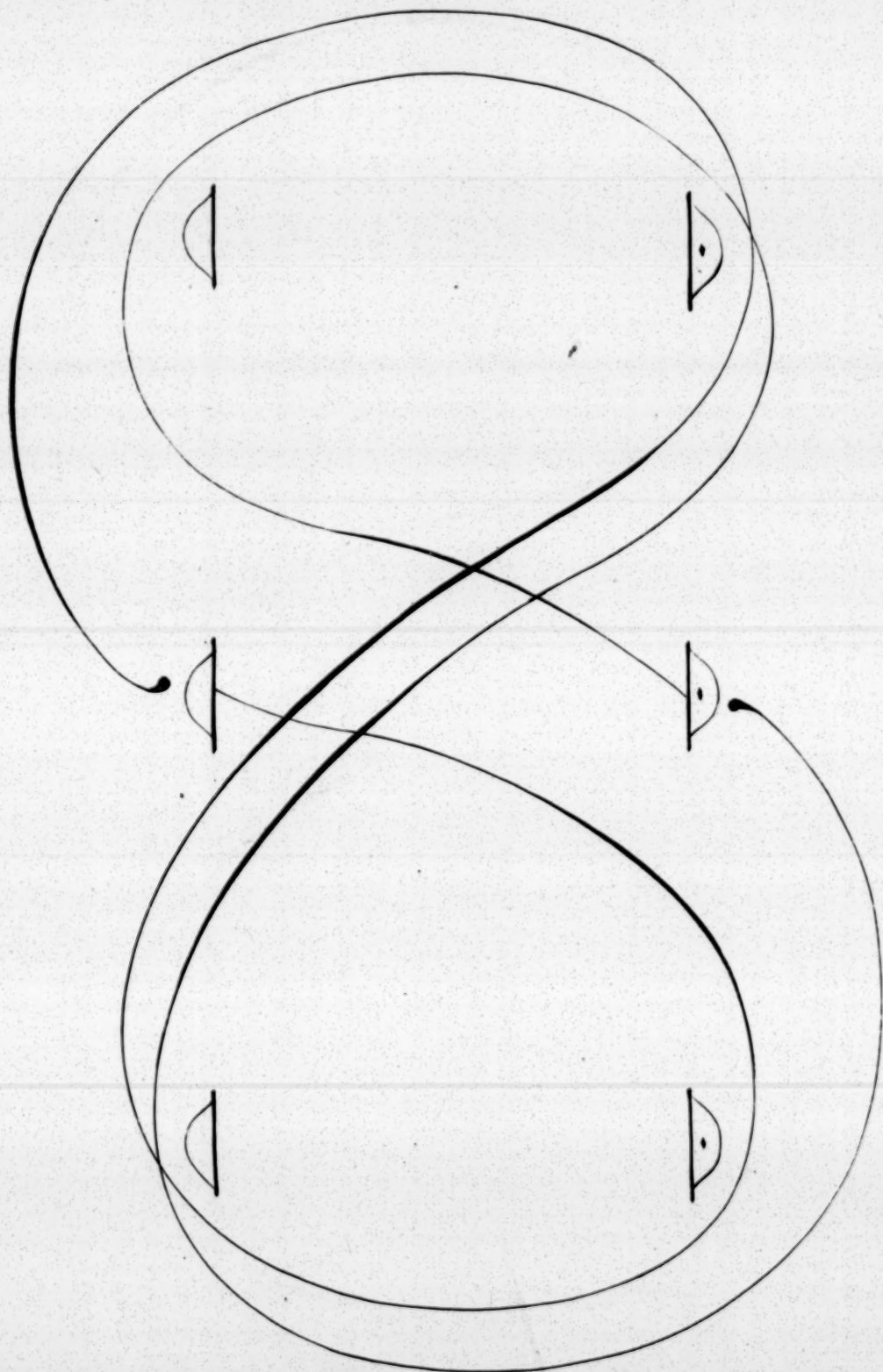
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The 2^d man and 2 wo Cross Corners half round



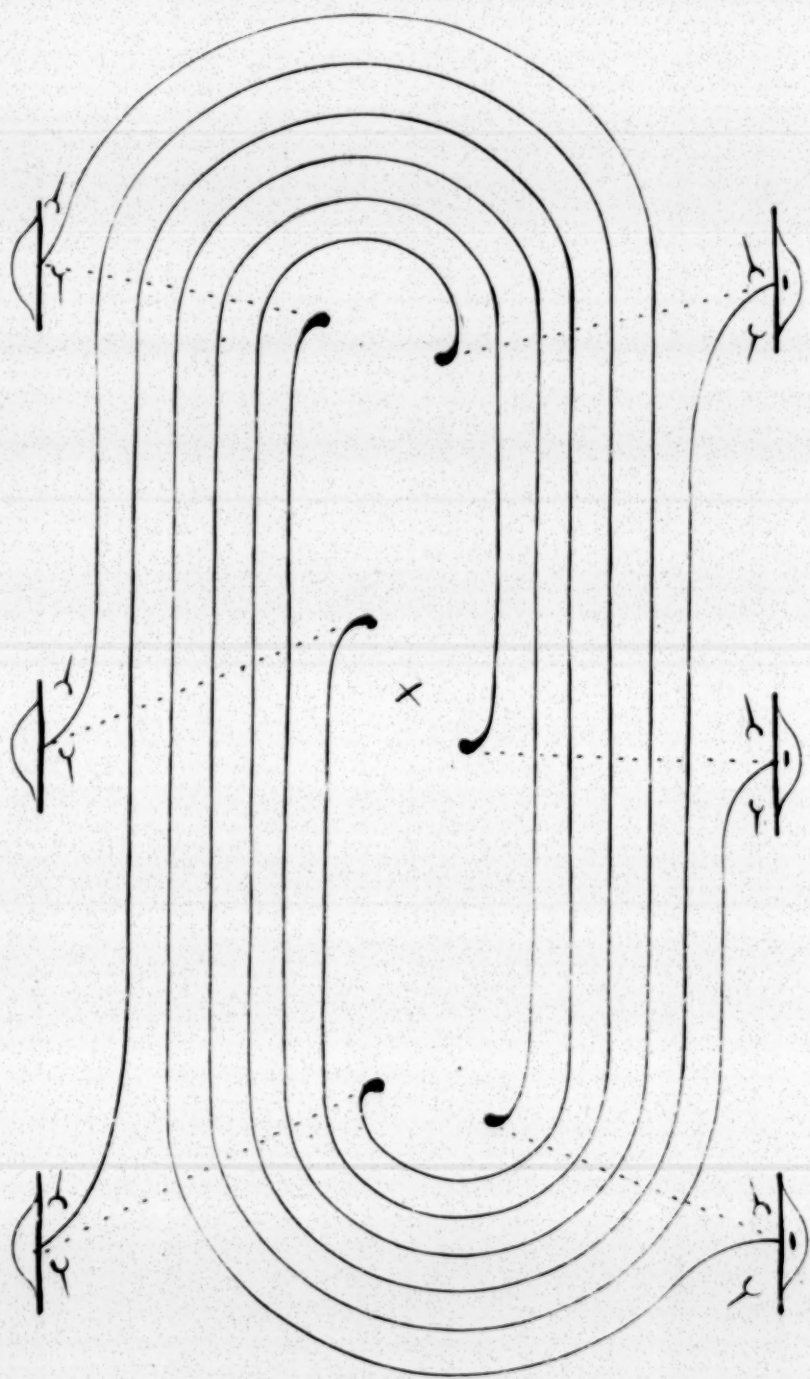
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*The 2^d man and 2^d wo Cross Corners quite
round, or double Corners*

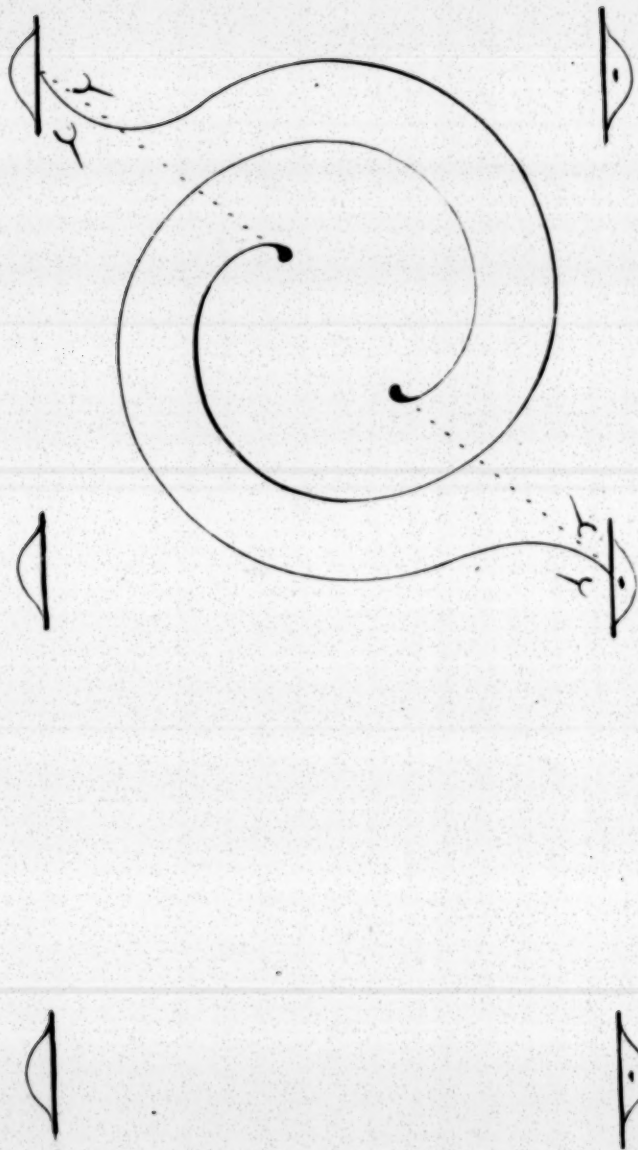


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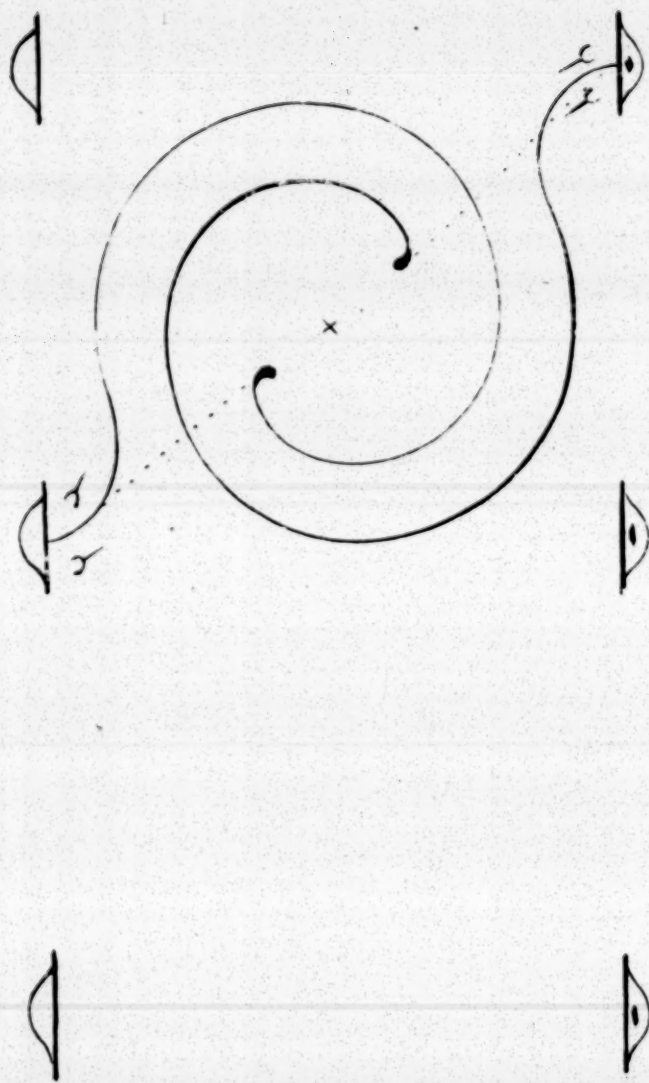
Hands all Six round to their own places



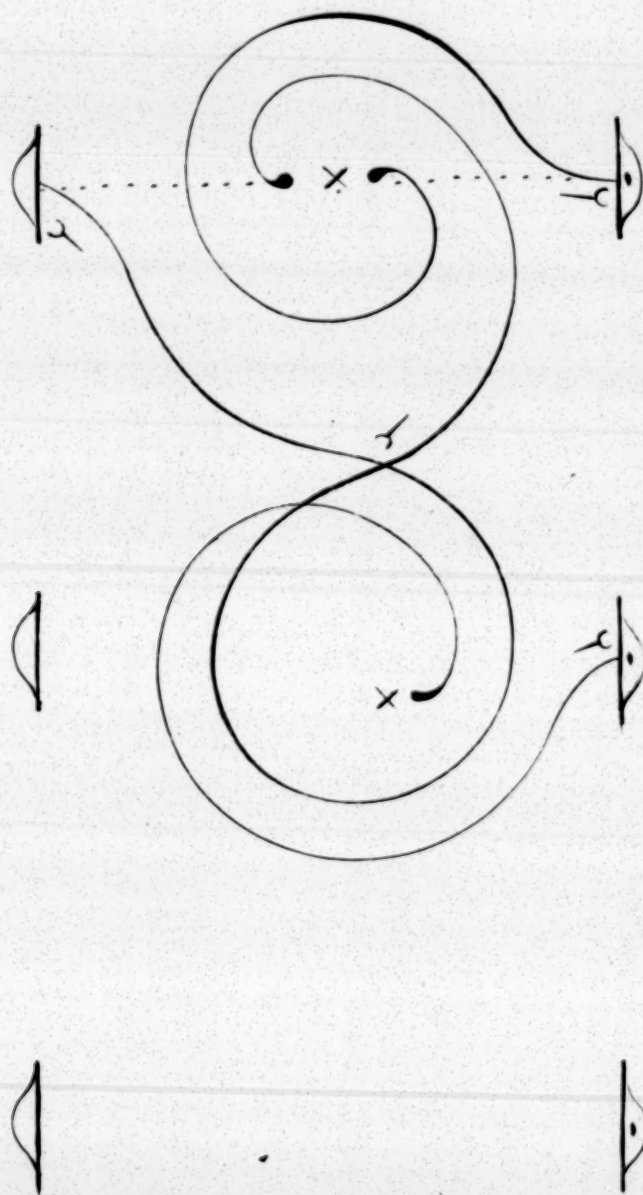
The 1st man sets to the 2^d wo and turns her



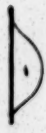
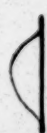
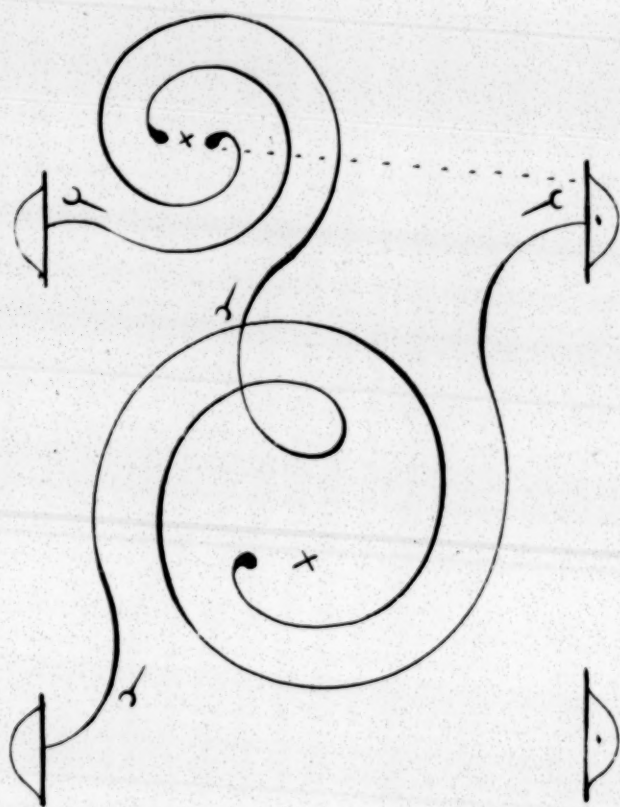
The 1st wo. sets to the 2^d man and turns him



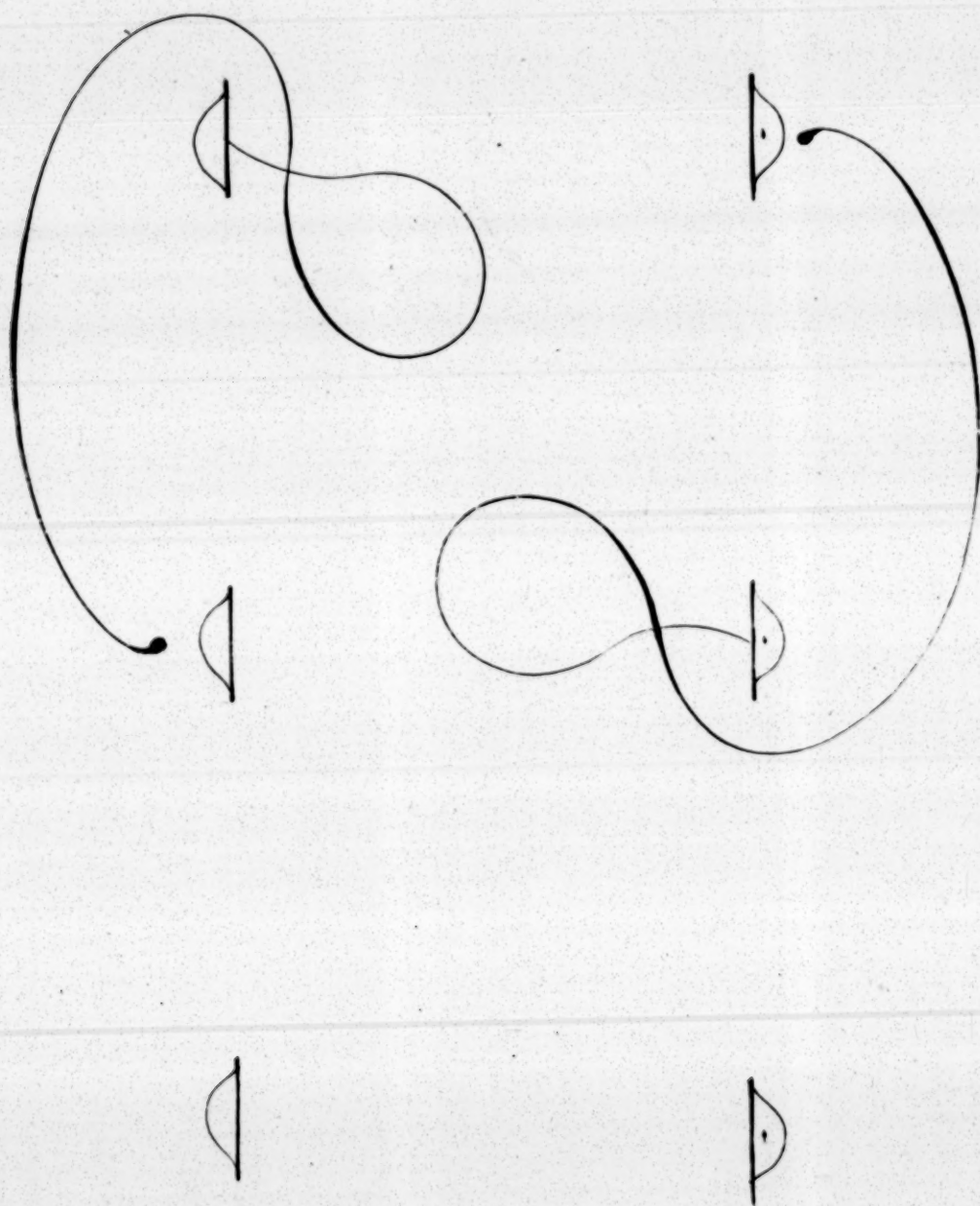
*The 1st man turns right hand with the 2^d wo:
and left hands round with his partner, and
finish in their own places*



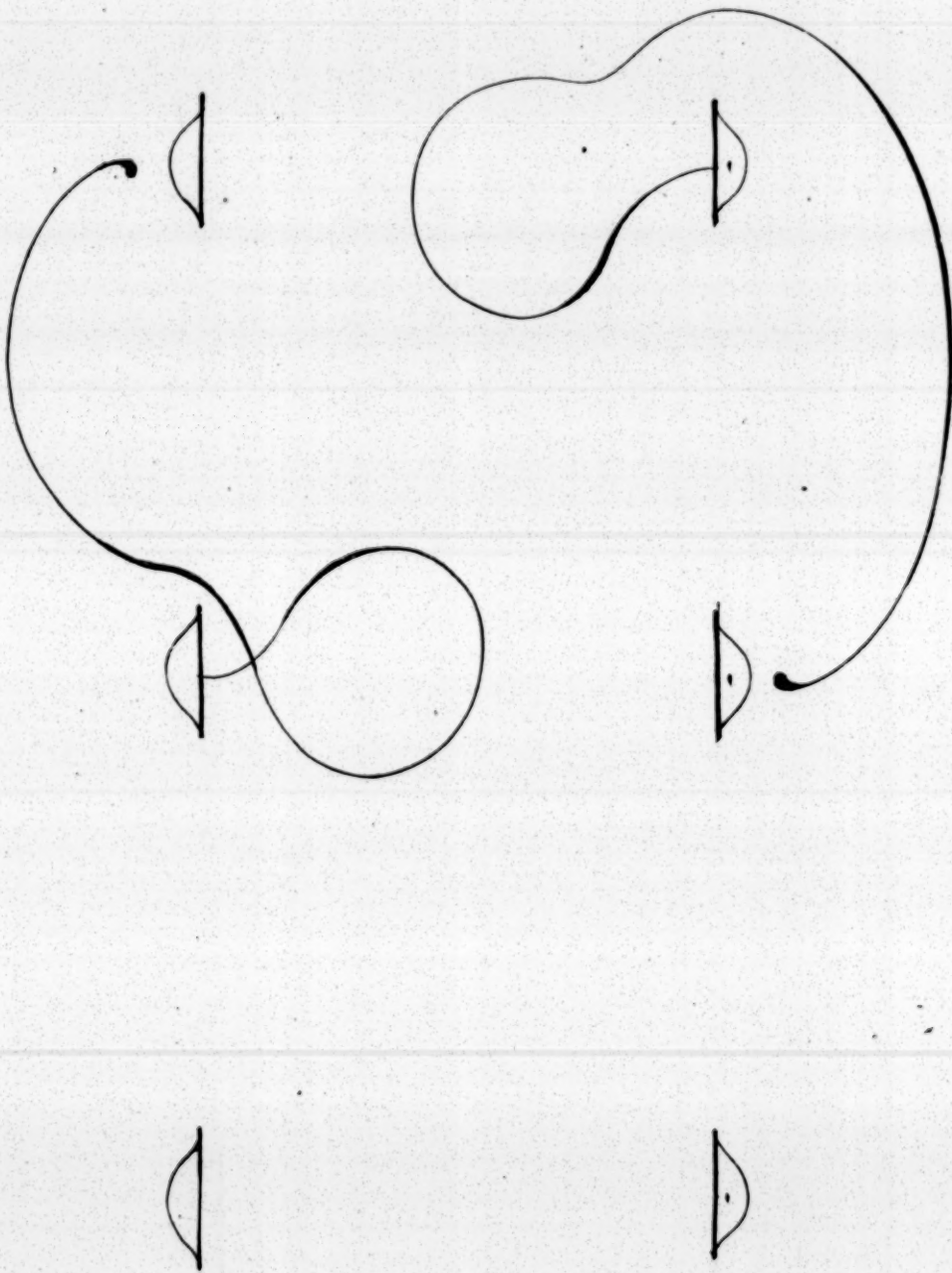
The 1st wo: turns right hands round with the 2^d
man, and left hands round with her partner,
and finish in their own places



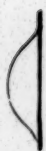
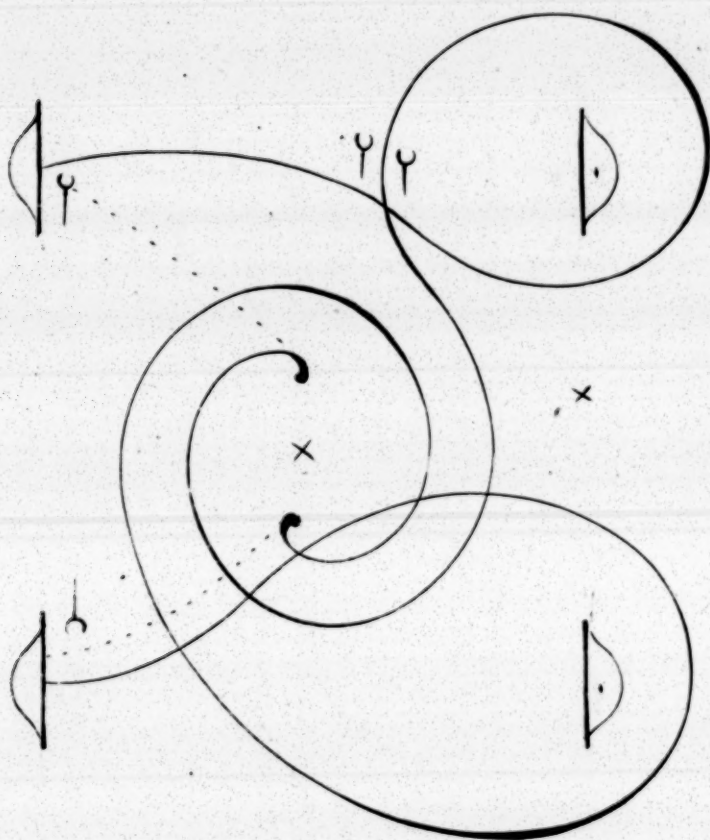
The 1st man and 2^d wo sets to Each other &
turns round Singley, the man Casts of one
Co: and the wo Casts up one Co:



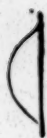
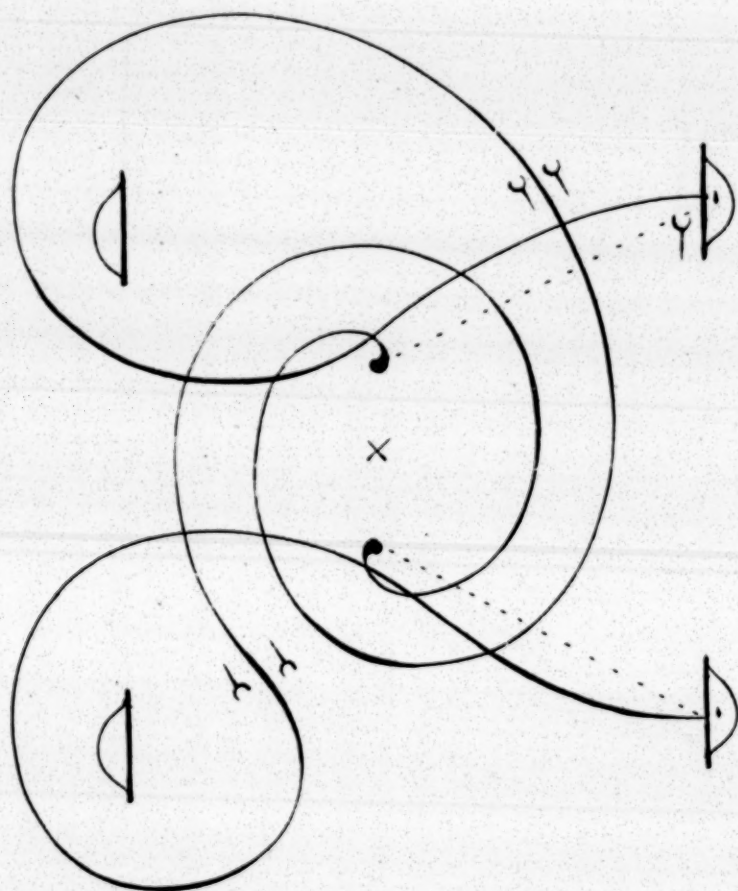
The 1st wo and 2^d man Setts to Each other and
turns Single; the wo: Casts of one Couple and
the man Casts up one Couple



The 1st two men leads between the 1st two wo:
and Cast of round them to their own places, &
turns both Hands.

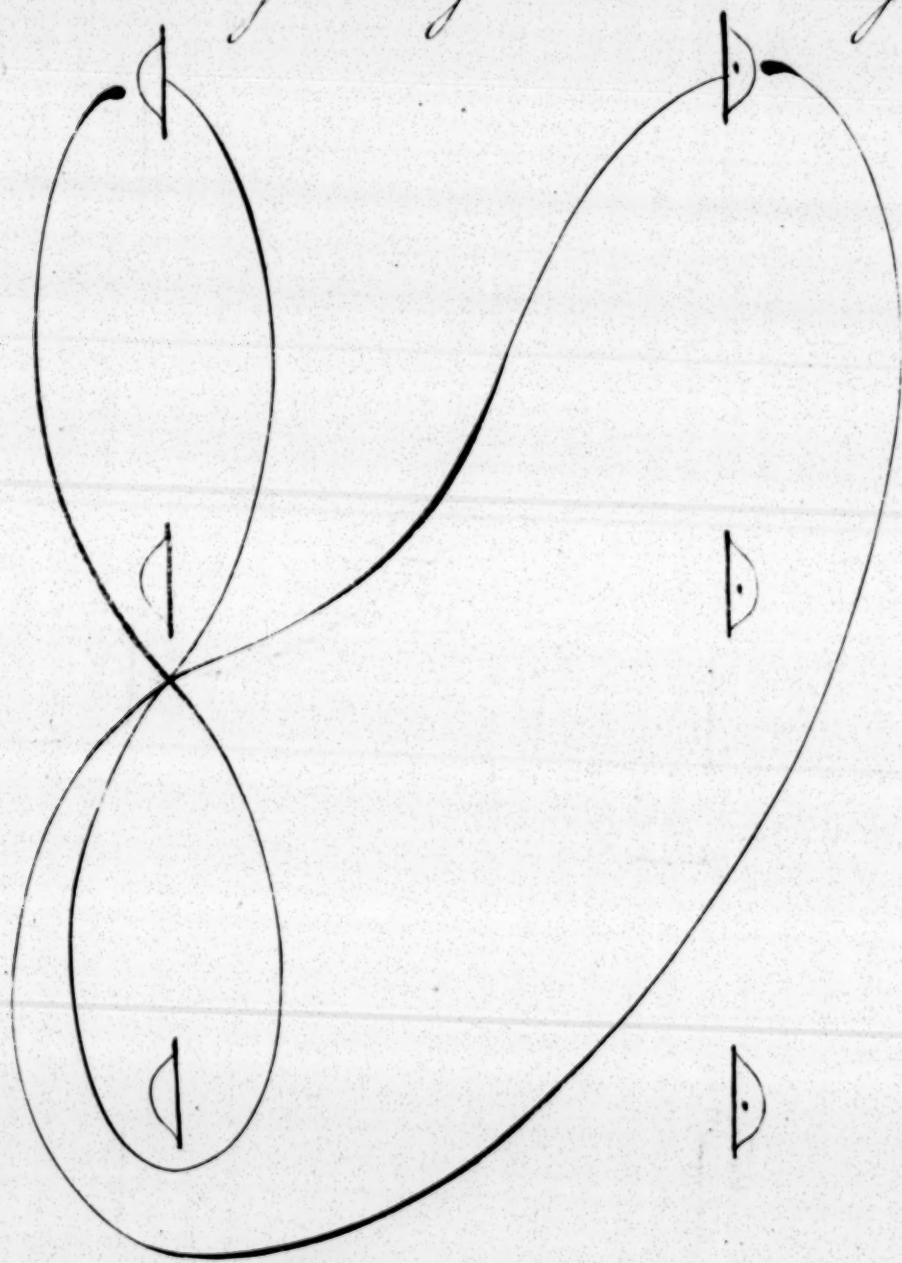


*The 1st two wo: leads thro' between the first
two, men and Casts of round them to their
own places, and turns both hands*

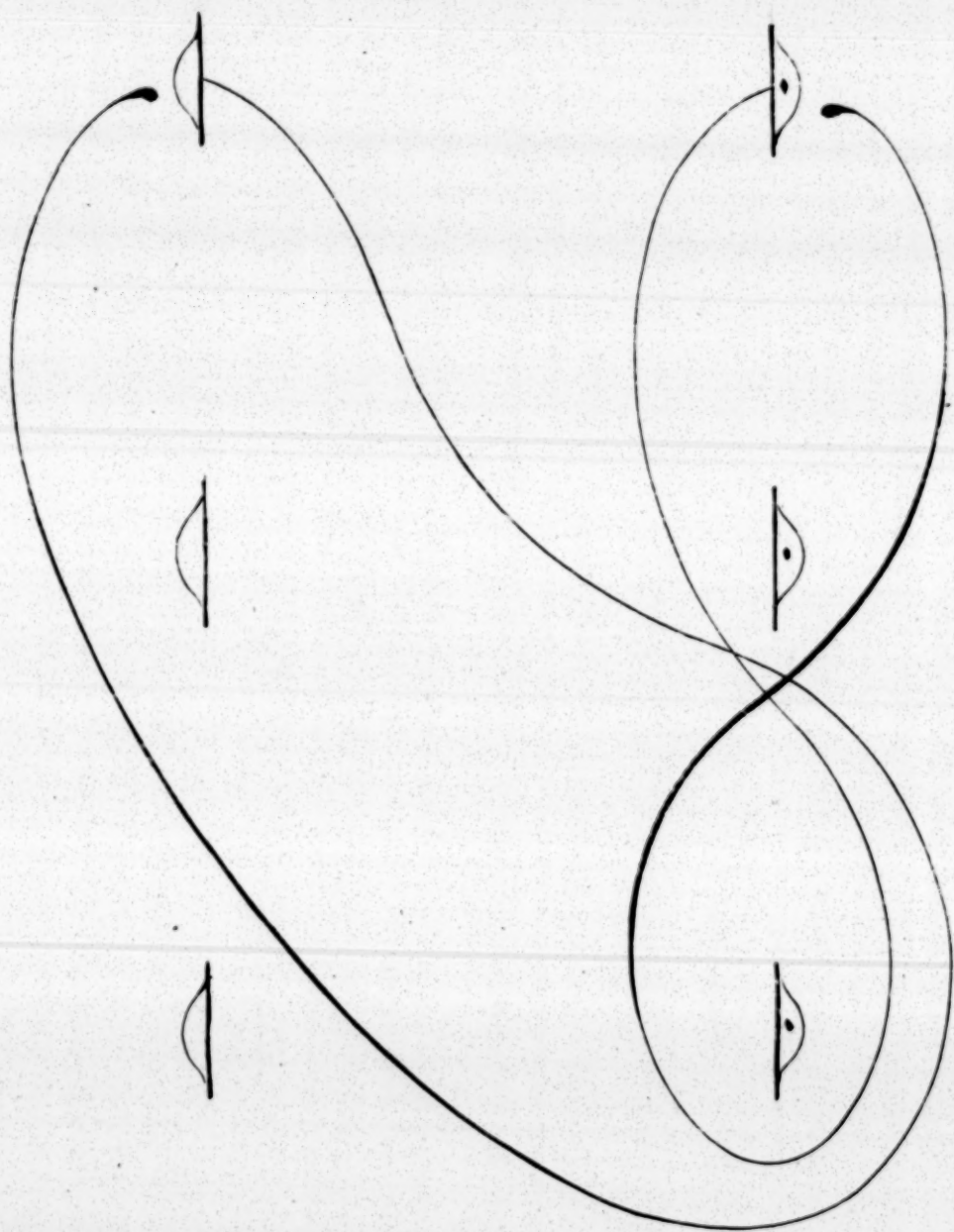


The 1st man whole figures of his own Side
and the wo. follows him round the 3^d man
and half figures up of her own Side to her
own place

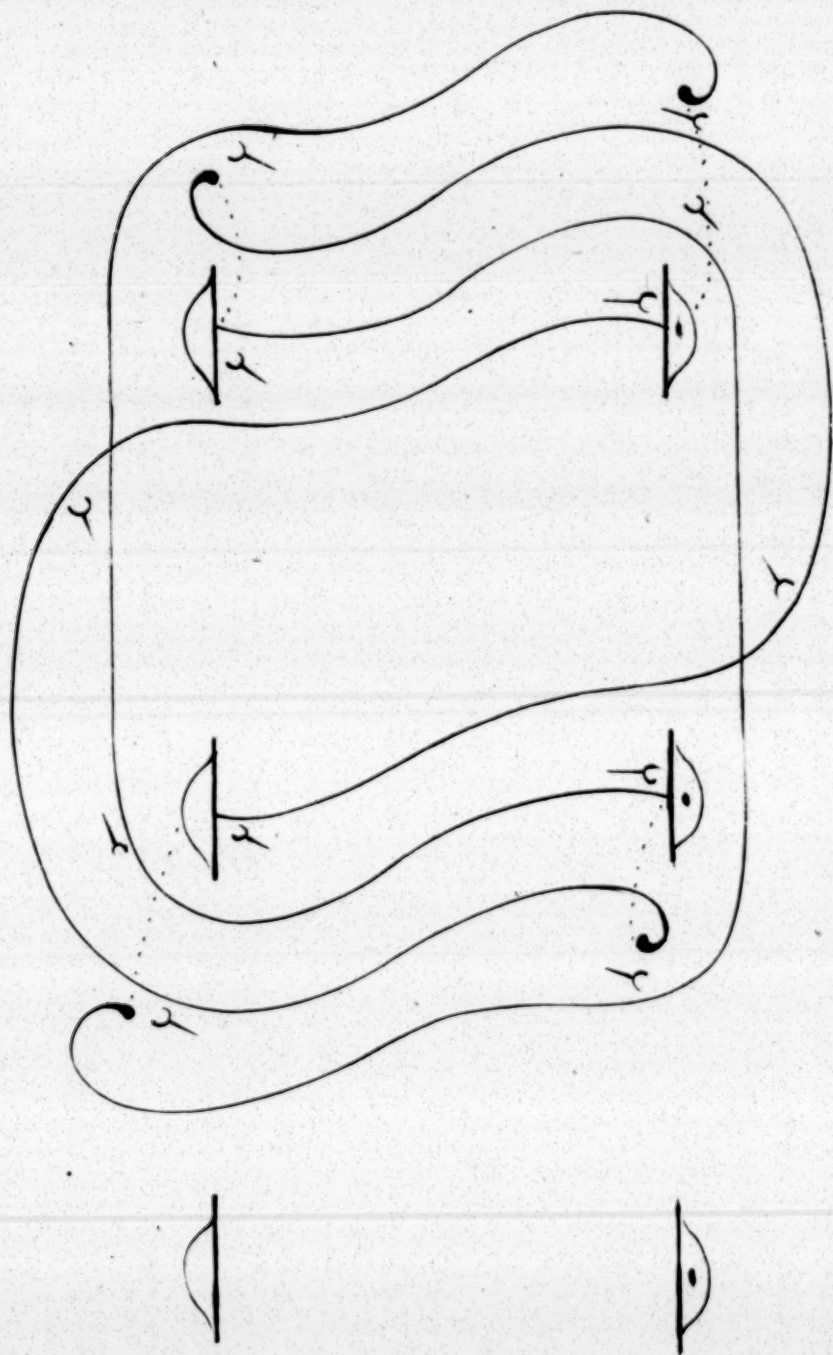
This is what is generally called Hunting



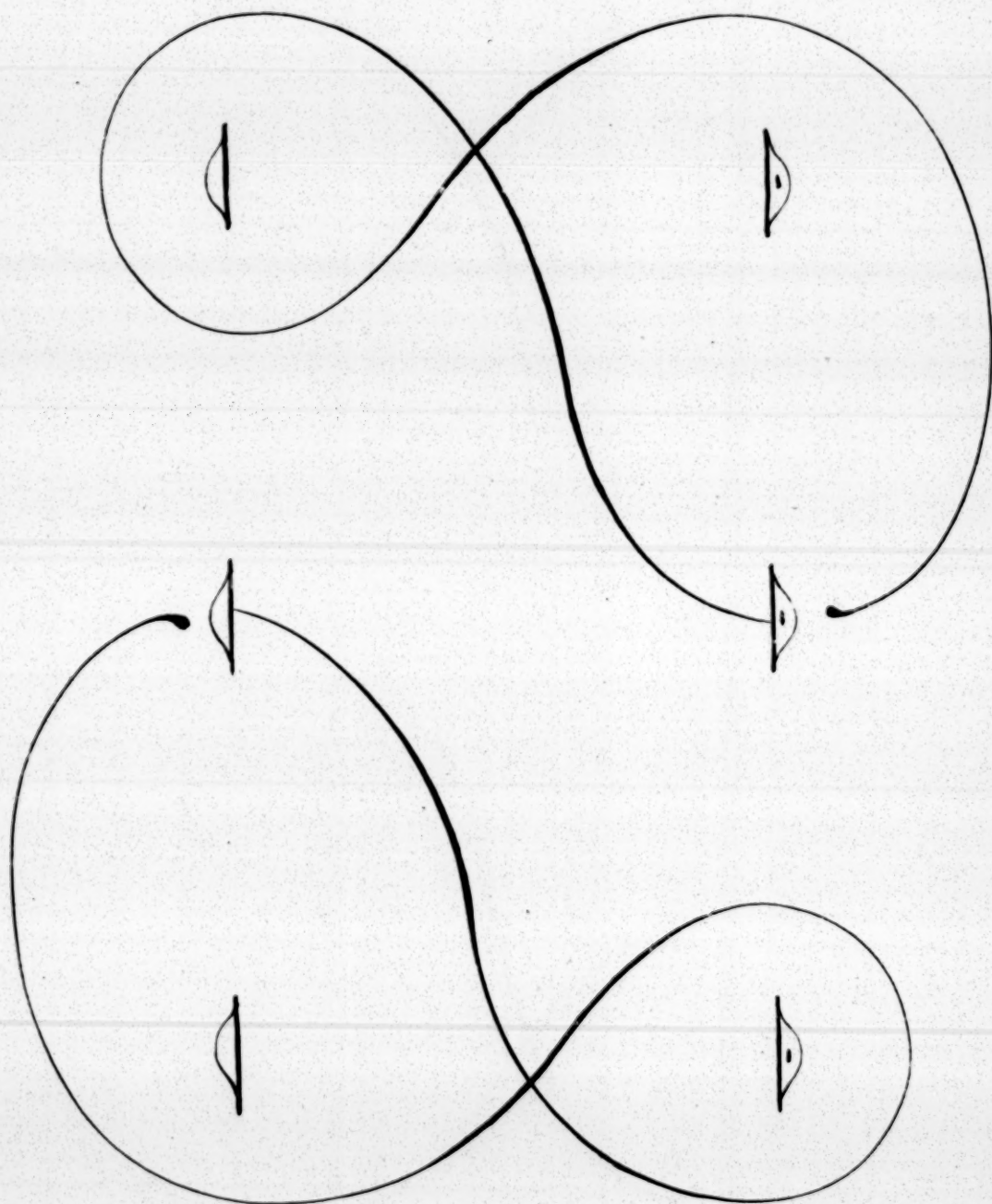
*The 1st wo. whole figures of her own Side, and
the man follows her round the 3^d wo. and half
figures up of his own Side*



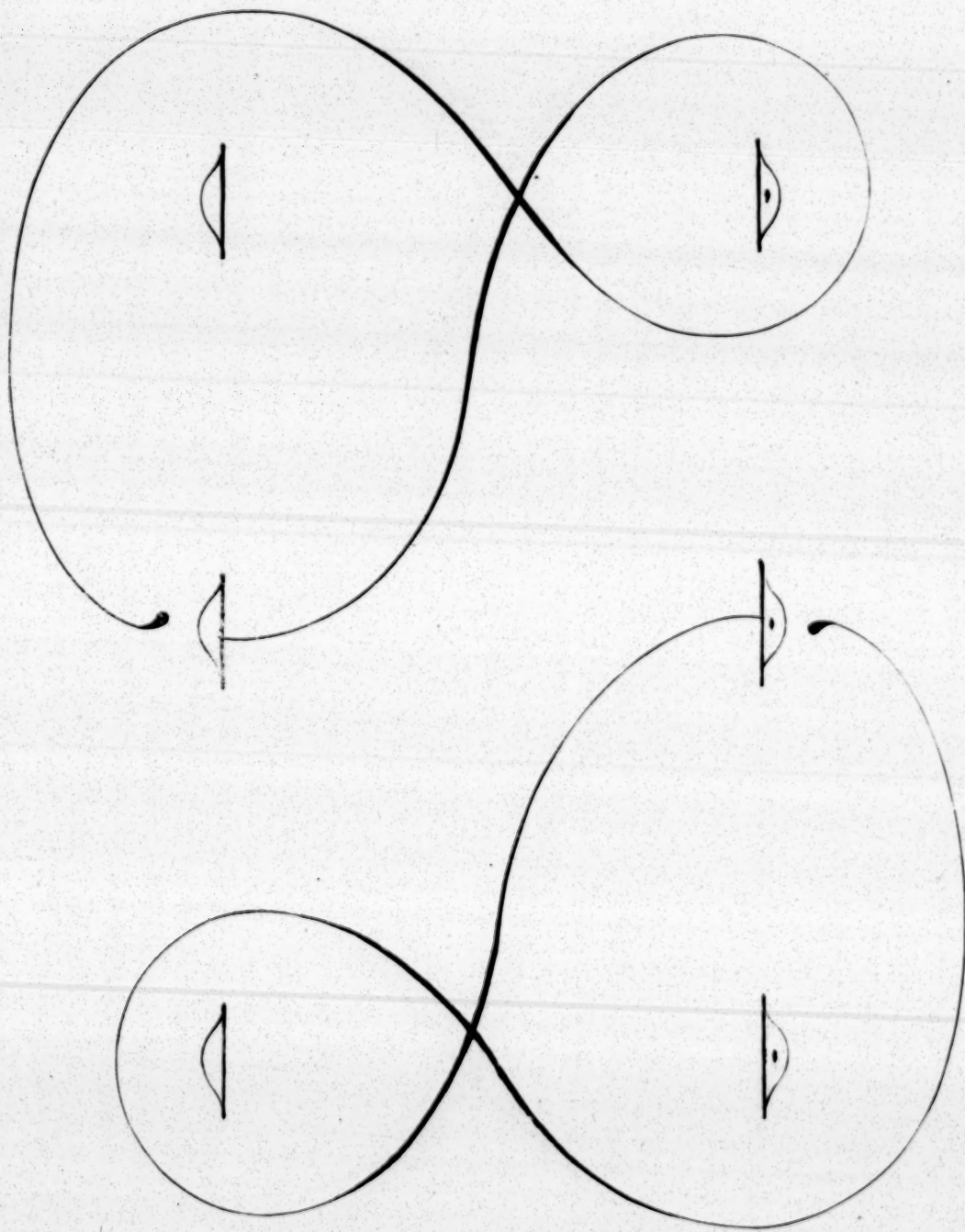
Right and left into the 2^d Co. place



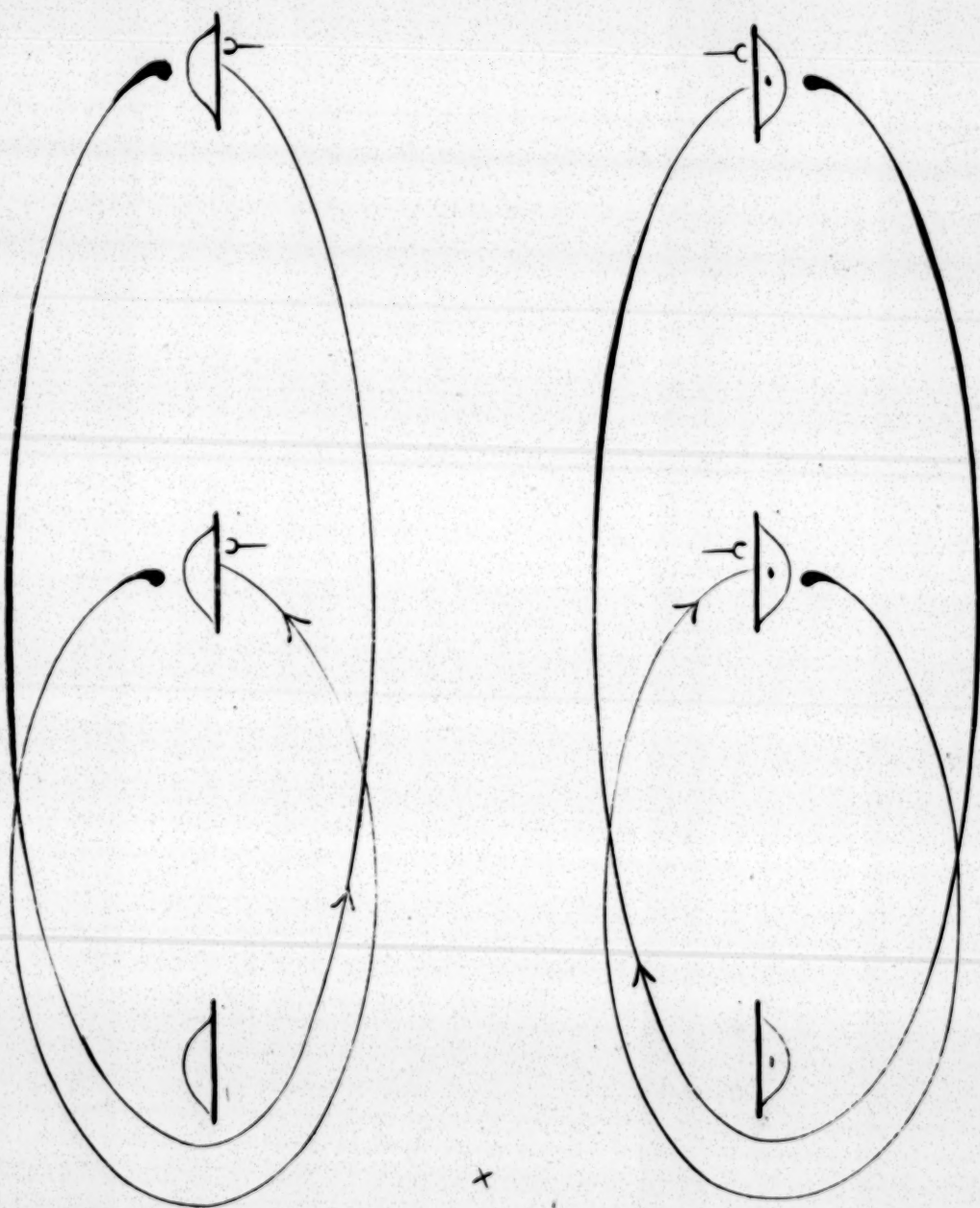
*The wo. whole figures at top, & the man
at the bottom at the same time.*



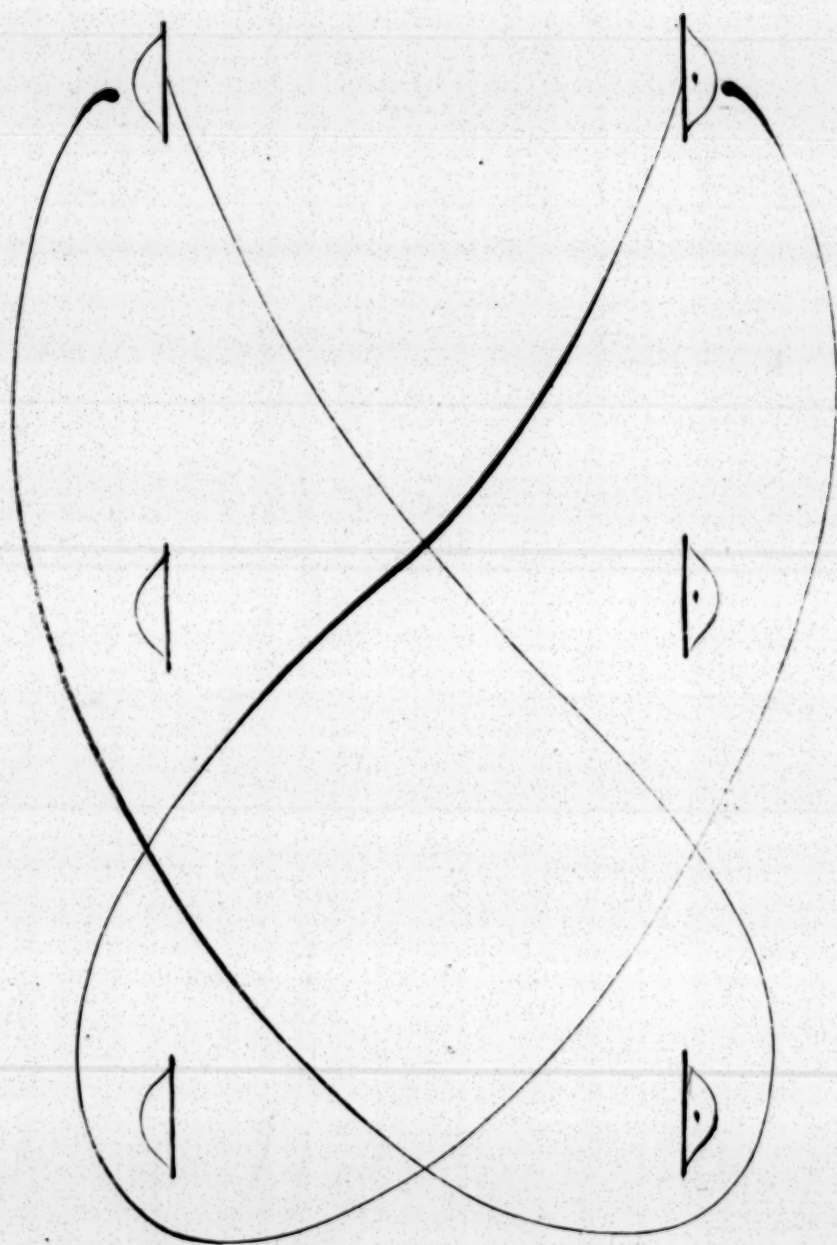
*The man whole figures at top & the wo
at the bottom at the same time*



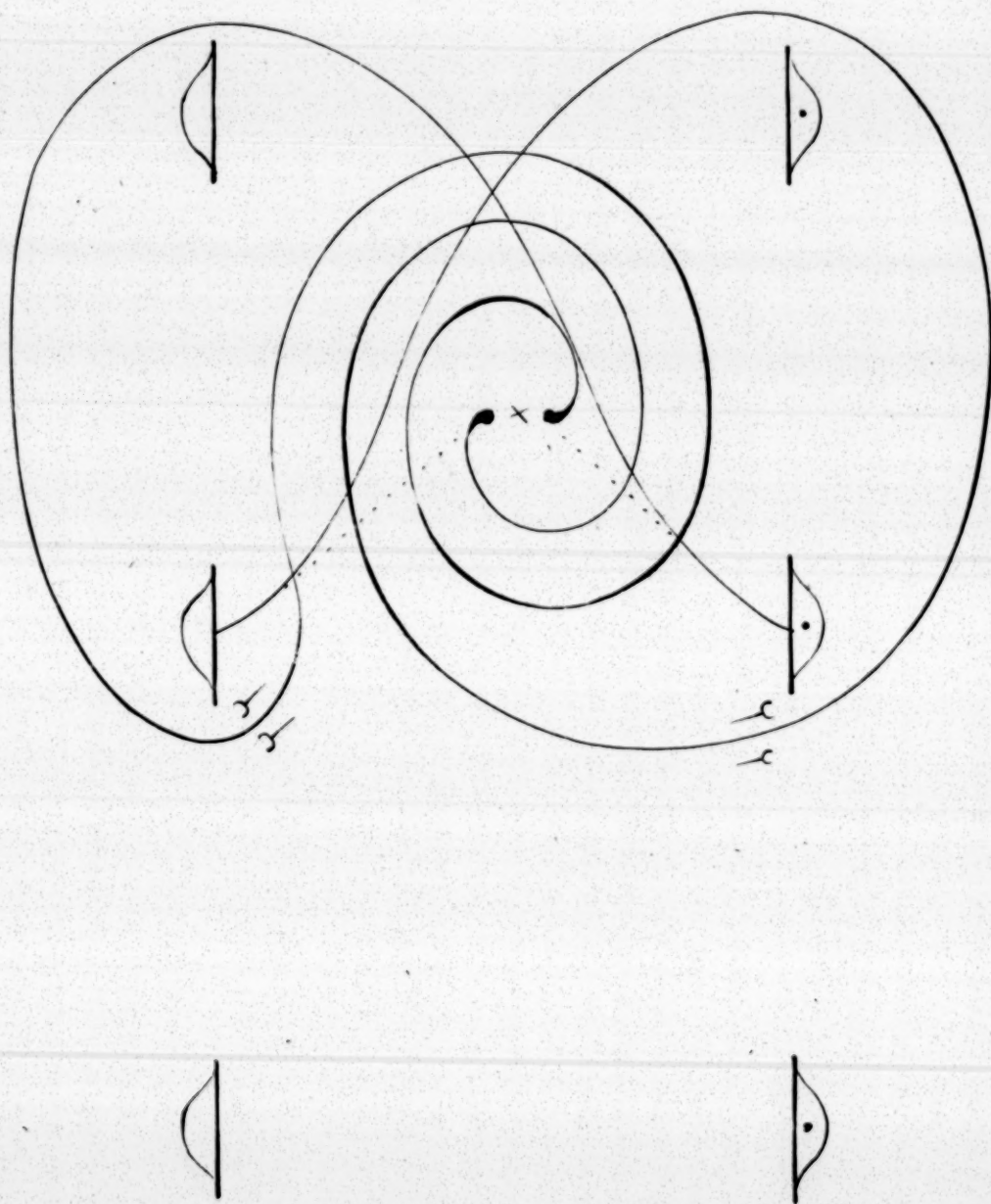
The 1st Co. leads down thro' the 3^d Co. & Custs
up to the top, & the 2^d Co. follows them round y^e 3^d
Co. at the Same time, in the Same manner,
and finishes in their own places

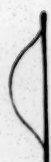
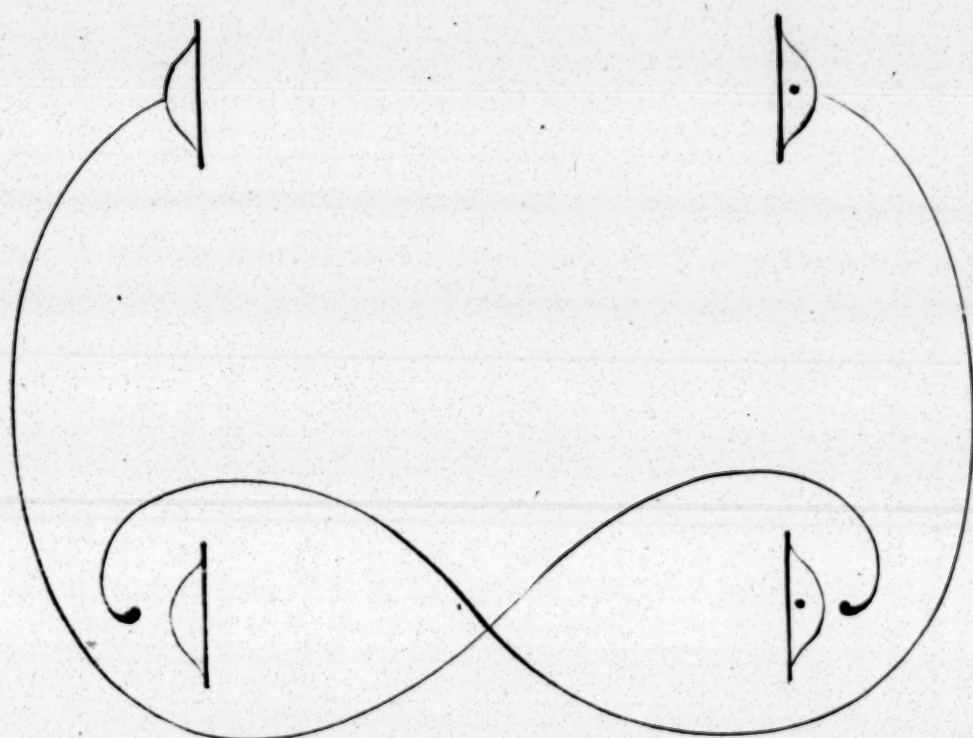


*Half figure down Contrary Sides and
up again of your own*

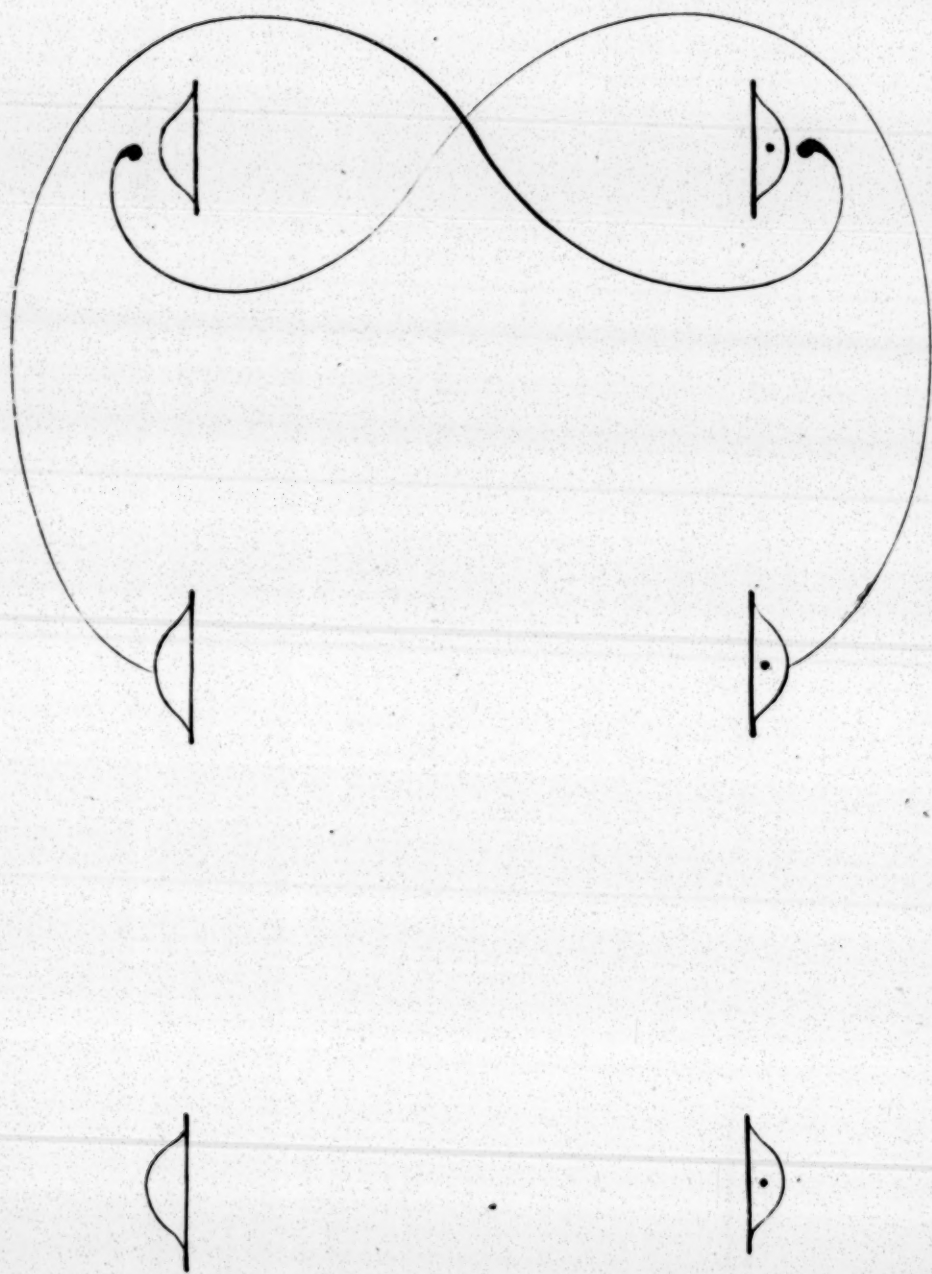


Half figure at top and turn hands

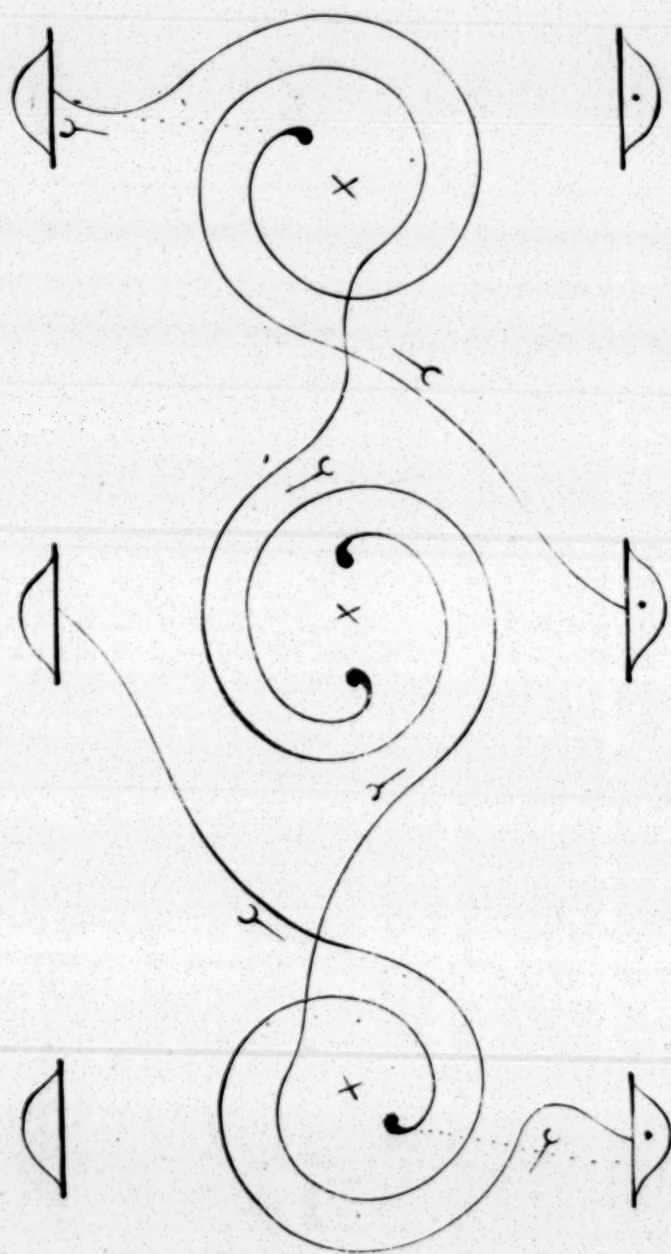


Cast of and half figure

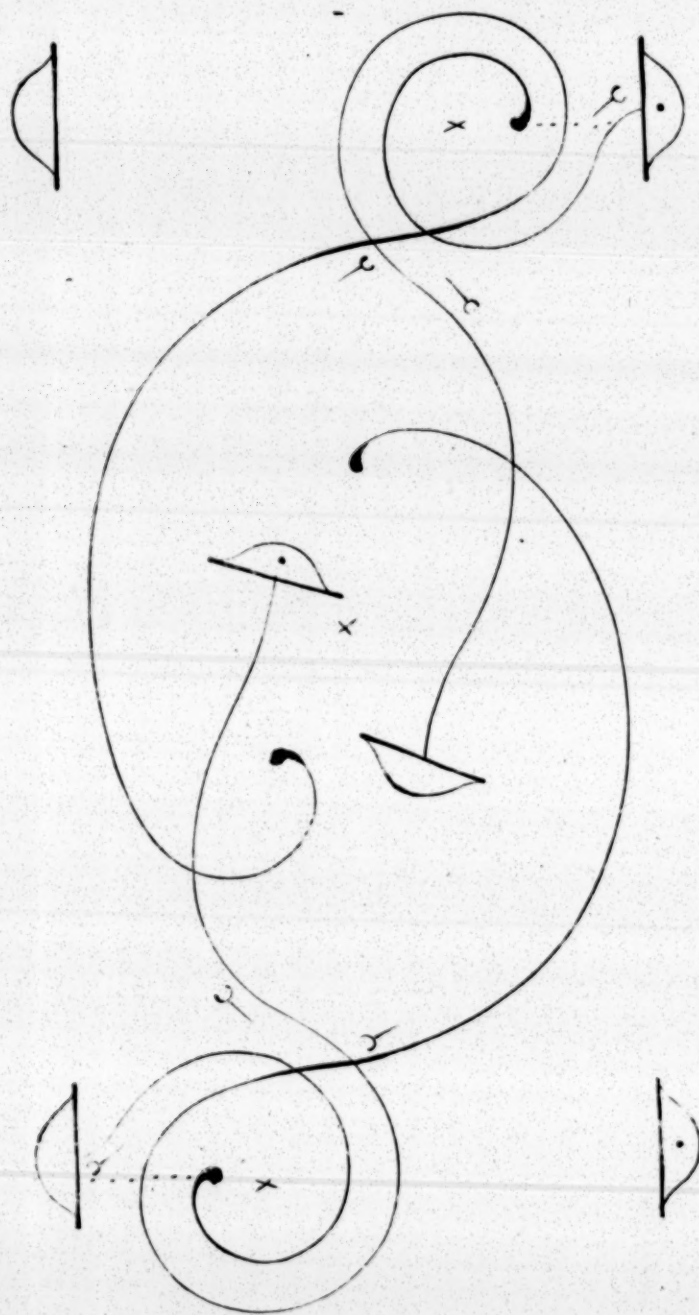
Cast up and half figure. —



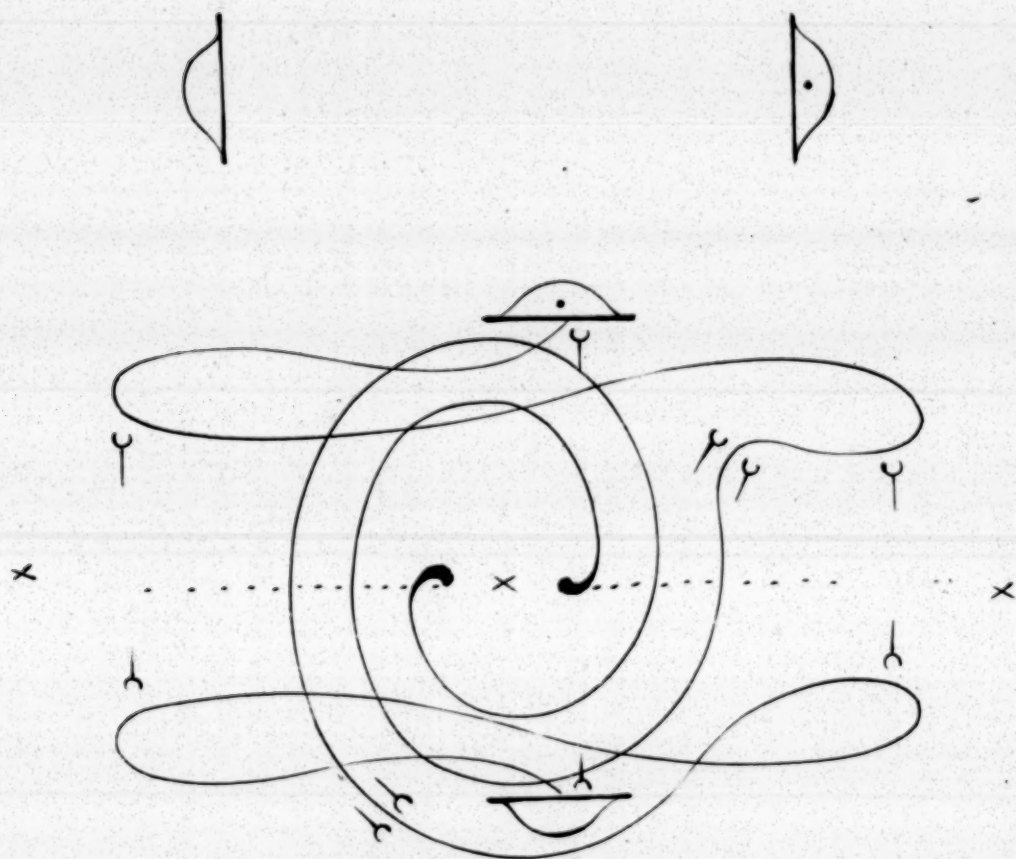
*Turn Corners right hands and your Partner
round with the left hand.*



*Turn the other Corners right hands & y^r Partner
left hands half round.*

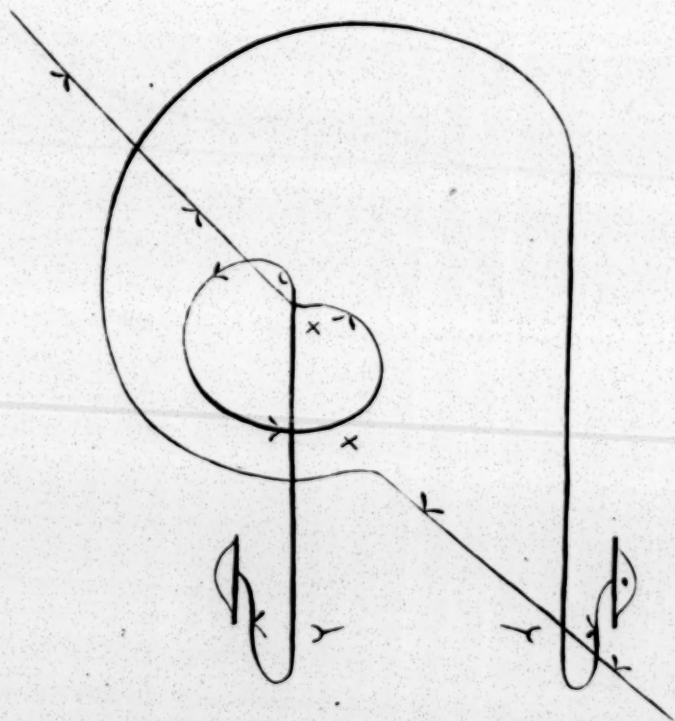


*Lead out of the Mans side & foot it, then Lead
out of the Womans side & foot it, & lead in again
and turn both hands & finish of your own sides*

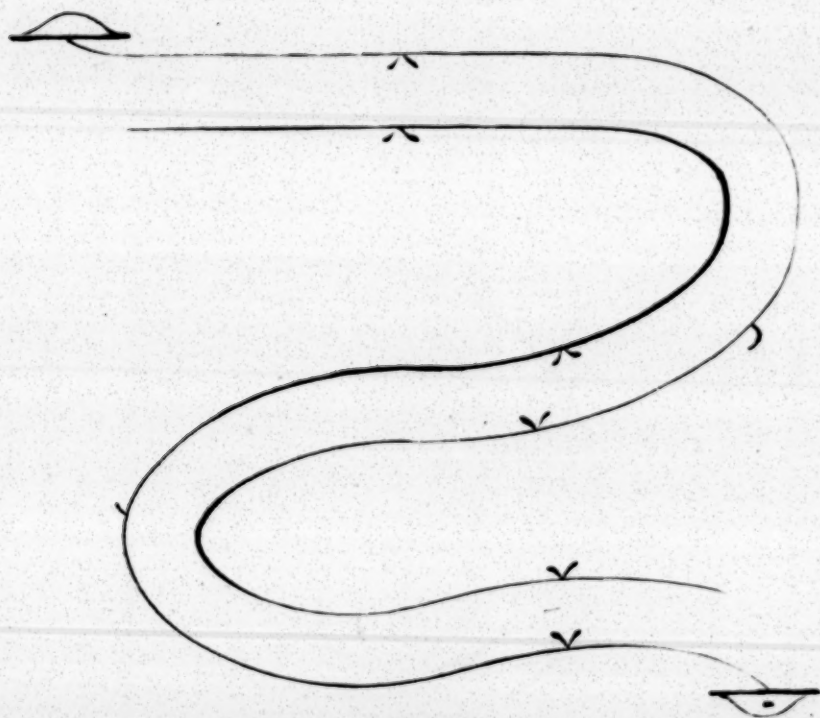


The Figure of the Minuet.

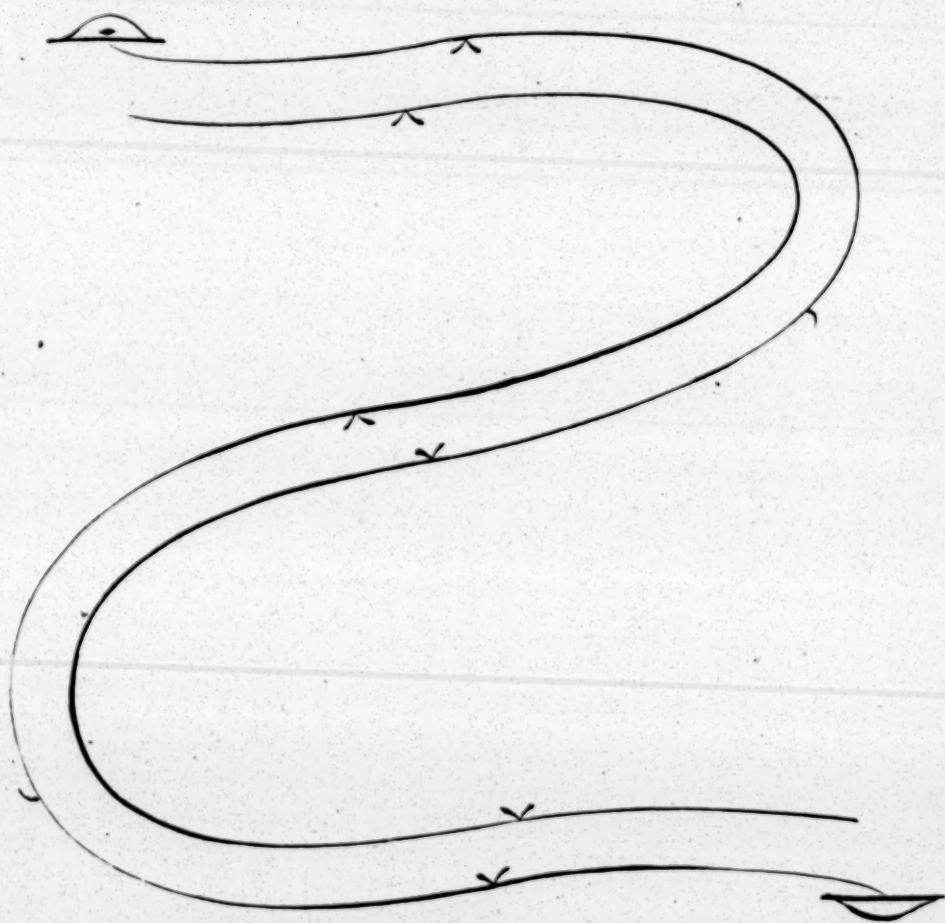
As I only propose to give the figure of it, the Honours we suppose are made; the Man & Woman being Opposite each other, they are to begin with a Minuet Step Sideways, the Man to his right hand, & the Woman to her left; then the Man takes the Woman by her left hand with his right hand, & leads her two Minuet Steps up the room; then he falls back, leading her two Minuet Steps round him to about the middle of the room; then they quit each other, & each person goes two Minuet Steps Sideways to the right hand, as in the figure.



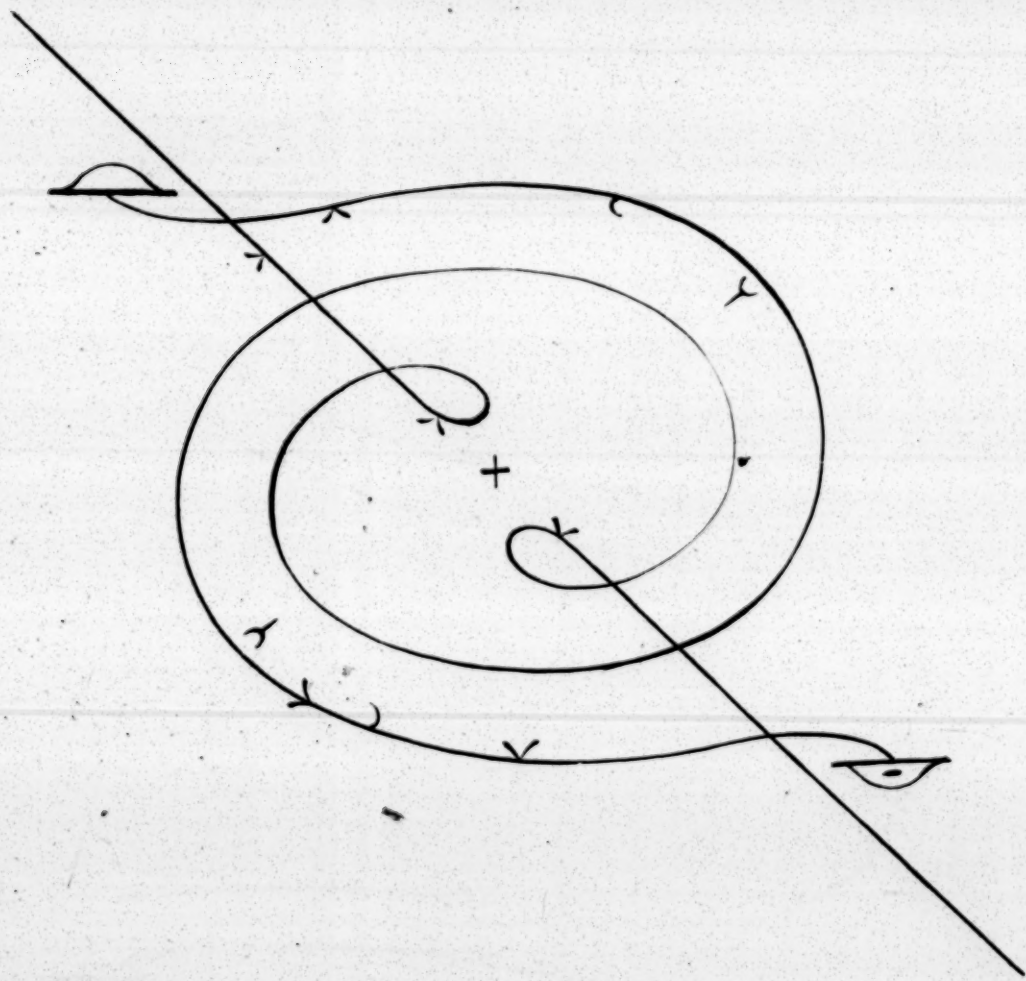
Now the Man being at one Corner of the room and the Woman at the other, they are both of them to proceed with two Minuet Steps to their left hands, then to cross over two Minuet Steps & turn the Corners to their left hand; then two Minuet Steps to their right hands. Sideways.



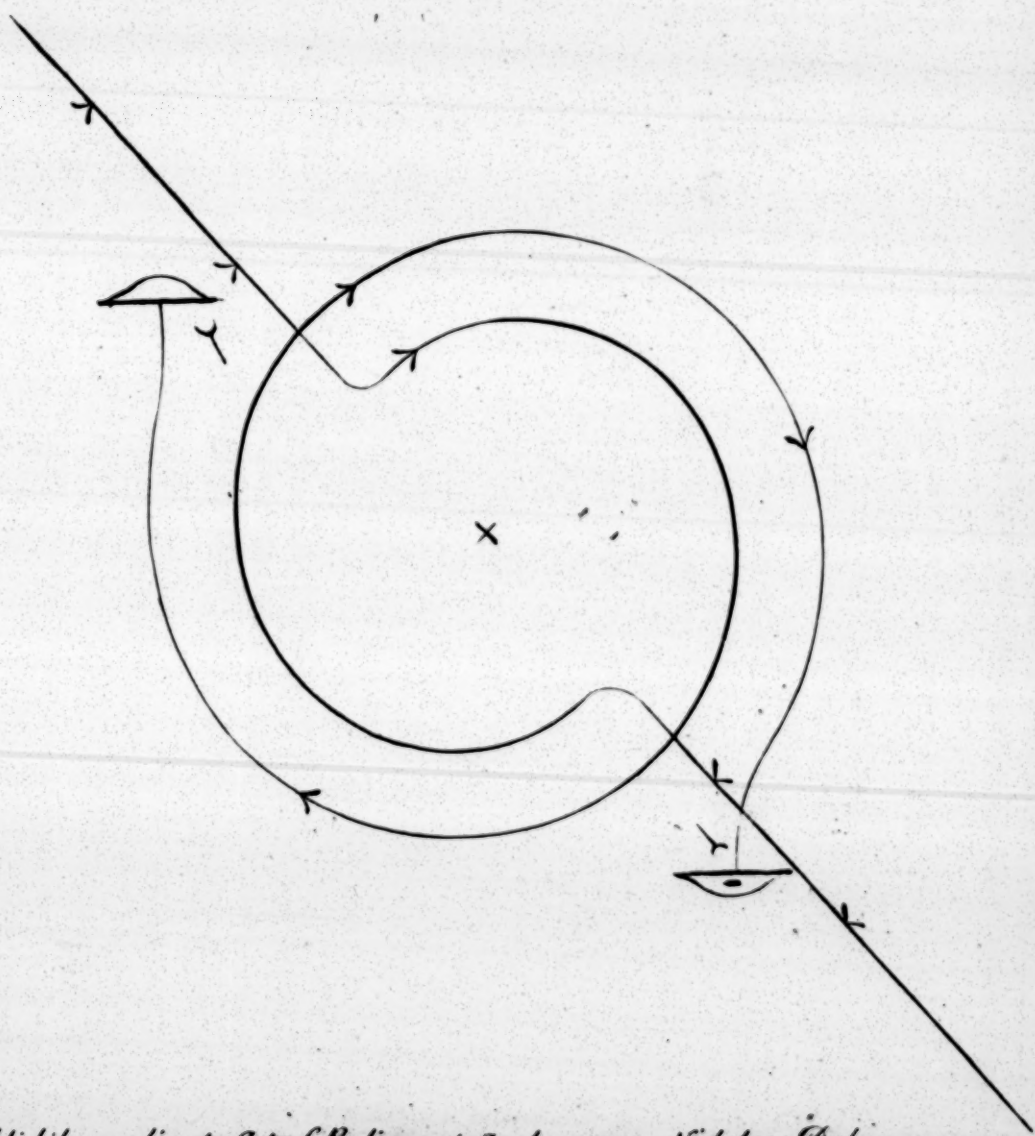
Now trace the same figure back again, exactly as
 on the other side; which brings you to the same Corners
 as when you first quitted hands; this figure you may go
 as Often as you please, before & after turning hands -
 Only a long Minuet should always be Avoided; it
 being tiresome to the Spectators to see too Often a Repetition
 of the same thing -



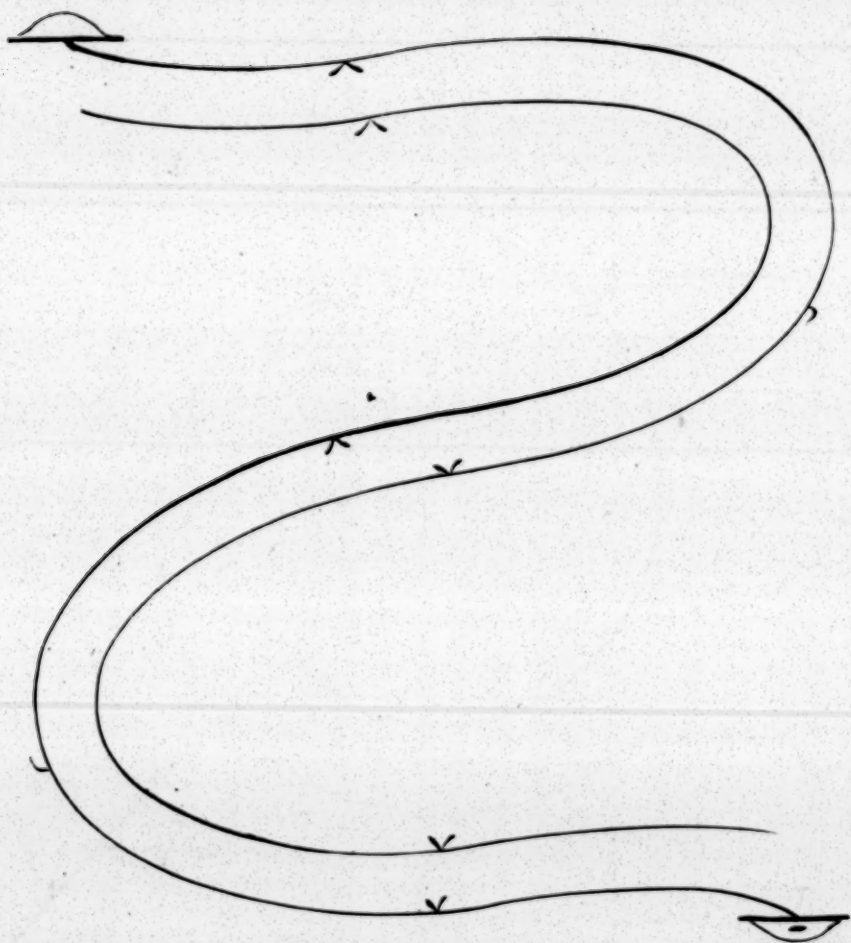
You are now to go two Minuet Steps to y^e left hand, as the figure represents; & then, in making a Circle, you present the right hand to each other, & going two or three Minuet Steps, making a round; then let go the Hands, & make each of you a Couple of Minuet Steps to the right hand Corner.



The right hands being finish'd, & you being return'd to the same Corners as before, you now proceed forward, with two or three Minuet Steps, & making a Circle as before, & present the left hands to each other; when you have made your round, you let go hands, & going a Couple of Minuet Steps to your right hands, brings you to the same Corner again as before the given of hands



*The right & left hands being now finish'd, you
proceed back to the figure as before; & go it once,
twice or three times, as you think proper*



You having gone now the Main figure as often
 as you think proper each of you proceed Sideways
 to the left hand as in the figure then making a
 Circle round present both hands to each other and
 having gone your round the Man goes a Couple of
 Minuet Steps back & the Woman follows him
 till they come to their own places where you
 finish as you begun making your Honours in the
 same manner as at first

